

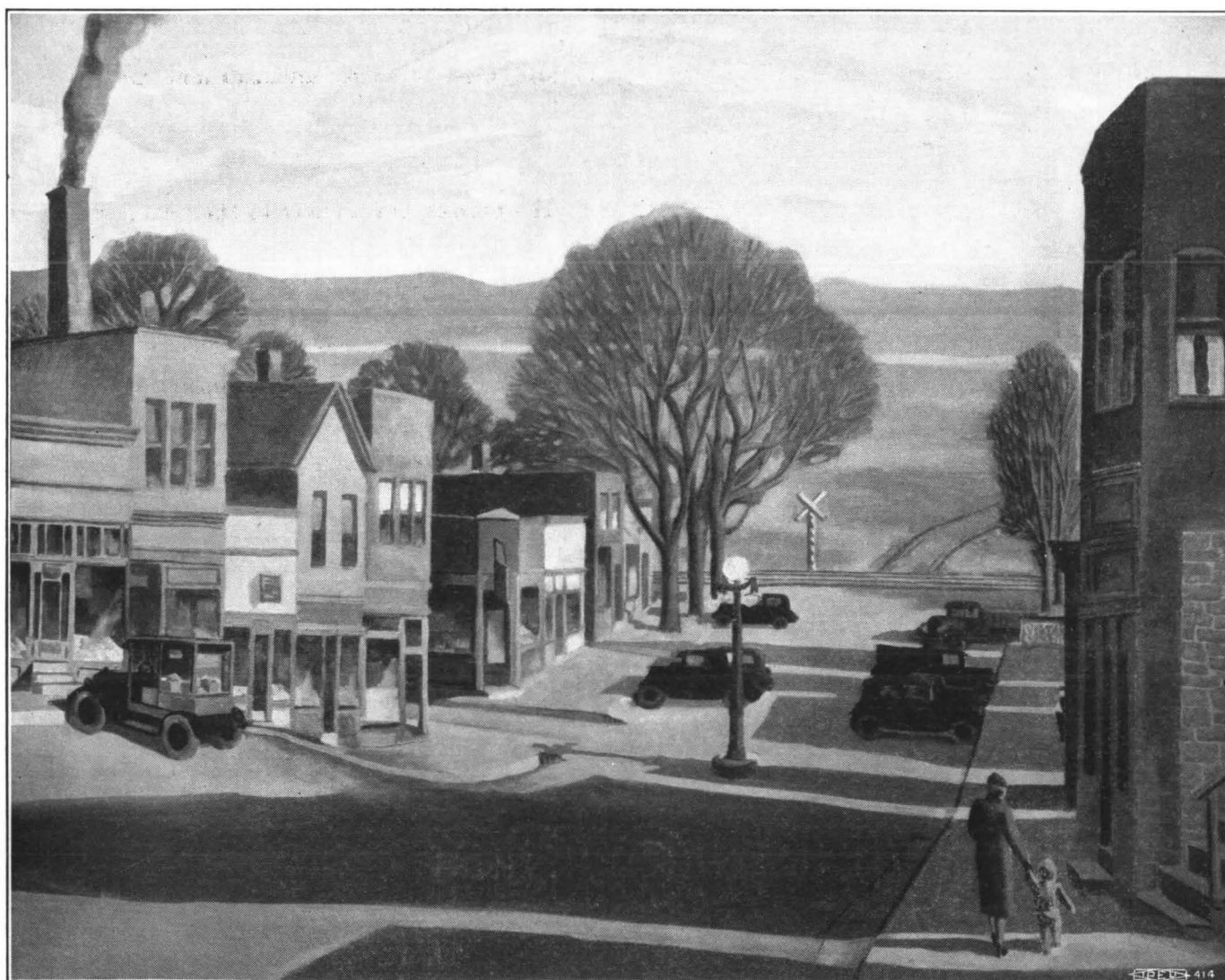
RECORDING · THE · ELECTRICAL · ERA

VOL. XXXIV

WASHINGTON, D. C., MARCH, 1935

NO. 3

## What do holding companies do to Main Street?



Courtesy FWAP

## Big Business works out program

# A SEARCHING QUESTION



I am ..... years old.

I am earning \$.....

I have worked ..... years.

I have saved \$.....

Am I satisfied? .....

This statement and the question were presented to us by an insurance man, and we pass them on to you.

Whatever information you can fill in on the blanks, the answer to the question is almost certain to be "No".

Such a situation can be handled at least partially by the purchase of life insurance—either **Straight Life** insurance for the benefit of your loved ones and to increase your estate when you die; **Endowment** insurance to give you a lump sum at a specified time in the future; or a **Retirement Income Bond** to provide you with an income when you retire.

**MAY WE HELP YOU IN SOLVING YOUR  
PROBLEM BY LIFE INSURANCE?**

**Union Cooperative Insurance  
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**Washington, D. C.**

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE  
**INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTRICAL WORKERS AND OPERATORS**  
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G. M. BUGNIAZET, *Editor*, 1200 15th Street N. W., Washington, D. C.

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**Magazine Chat**

Percy Shelley, called "the miracle of 30 years," born a lord, always wrote on the side of humanity. It is for this reason that his "Song," dedicated to workmen massacred at Manchester, takes a leading place in this issue of the Journal.

Brother Frank Ormsby has written to ask that we suggest to union men that they write us short true stories on their traveling experiences. Not a bad idea!

Wallace J. Campbell of The Cooperative League of the United States of America has sent us a copy of his article appearing in Phil Ziegler's "The Railway Clerk." This article is entitled "A New Technique for American Labor." He wants labor to pay more attention to labor as a consumer. He says the workers organized as producers have won at least a partial victory. The workers as consumers, unorganized and helpless, have lost, and lost heavily.

The cover photograph is supplied this month through the courtesy of the Public Works of Art Project. It is entitled "Parkeville, Missouri, Street," by Gale Stockwell. It surely catches the flavor of the village at home.

Some excellent labor publicity has come to our attention. A beautifully illustrated and printed booklet, entitled "Bread and Roses, The Story of the Rise of the Shirtworkers," has just been published by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. The other is the publication of the educational department (Fannia Cohn, official in charge) of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. This organization has always taken a leading part in intelligent educational methods for labor.

Many photographs that have been sent in by members for publication in the Journal have arrived in a damaged, sometimes unusable condition. To save disappointment the Editor suggests that photographs should always be packed flat in an envelope, and protected by cardboard.

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# SONG FOR THE TERRIBLE MEEK

By PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY

AND if then the tyrants dare,  
Let them ride among you there,  
Slash, and stab, and maim, and  
hew;  
What they like, let them  
do.

WITH folded arms  
and steady eyes,  
And little fear, and less  
surprise,  
Look upon them as they  
slay,  
Till their rage has died  
away.

THEN they will return with  
shame  
To the place from which they  
came;  
And the blood thus shed will  
speak  
In hot blushes on their cheek.

EVERY woman in the land  
Will point at them as they stand;  
They will hardly dare to greet  
Their acquaintance in  
the street.



AND these words shall  
then become  
Like Oppression's thun-  
dered doom  
Ringing through each  
heart and brain  
Heard again—again—  
again!

RISE like lions after slumber  
In unvanquishable number!  
Shake your chains to earth, like  
dew  
Which in sleep had fallen on  
you—  
Ye are many, they are few!





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NO. 3

## How Holding Companies Mulct Main Street

**T**HORSTEIN VEBLEN defined vested interests as a legal right to get something for nothing. The bulwark of vested interests in industry is the holding company. The holding company is a legal device by which fictitious and inflated values are poured into a corporation from which is extracted via the dividend route huge and unjustifiable profits. New light has been thrown upon this problem which affects every man, woman and child and every family in America and reaches by devious routes from the financial centers of the great cities to the Main Streets of American villages.

The Federal Trade Commission does not spare the holding companies in this most comprehensive and illuminating survey. At one place in the report the commission declares:

"The use of words such as fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, dishonesty, breach of trust and of pressure are the only suitable terms to apply if one seeks to form an ethical judgment on many practices which have taken sums beyond calculation from the rate-paying and investing public."

So pernicious has the holding company evil become in its effect on the whole industrial financial structure that the commission presents 24 recommendations to the U. S. Congress looking toward the wiping out of most of the attendant bad effects of overcapitalization. The principal aims of the commission are to achieve compulsory licensing of utility corporations and the permissive federal incorporation of utility corporations. Through its long study of utility financing the Federal Trade Commission has found plenty of ammunition as a basis for its recommendations.

### Bookkeeping Gymnastics

Overcapitalization of assets in public utility corporations is assailed by the commission as one of the greatest evils revealed in its seven-year investigation of electric and gas companies. Unwarranted write-ups in property valuations totaling nearly \$1,500,000,000 were uncovered on the books of the 150 holding, sub-holding and operating concerns examined. Most of these capital mark-ups were found to be based on nothing more substantial than pure "optimistic judgment" on the part of the controlling interests, or on superficial "horseback appraisals" by their own engineering staffs

### Report of Federal Trade Commission reveals staggering structure of fictitious values imposed upon operating companies. Reform indicated.

during the merging of operating units within their systems. Another common method of inflating resources is to allow obsolete properties, long since retired from use, to remain for many years after, listed on the ledgers of their owners as active, earning assets.

Lack of proper investigation by state power commissions before approving applications for new capital issues was branded as another potent source of utility overcapitalization. The state of New York came in for severe criticism because its public service commission law has never expressly made any valuation of capital assets a prerequisite to the granting of new flotations. The small investor does not understand that the stock he is purchasing has nothing tangible of value behind it. The investment looks promising, outwardly; the advertisements are alluring; the issue floats out in a flood of "water". With easy juggling of appraisals and unsound accounting methods, utility financiers hide the actual facts.

Improper capitalization of rights to power sites, going concern value and other intangibles, the consistent overstatement of earnings and surpluses, and the depletion of assets by the persistent payment of dividends not earned were discovered to be the general practice. Examination of the Electric Bond and Share Company's \$500,000,000 surplus account exposed the fact that \$382,000,000 of it was due to unrealized inflation of investments during a reorganization in 1929. Late in 1931, however, perceiving the storm even then brewing in the nation's capital, the corporation hastened to cover by squeezing water out of its surplus account to the tune of \$441,400,000—a write-down of 88 per cent.

### Rates Based on Book Values

In many states public utilities are allowed to earn specified legal rates of return upon whatever they can get away with claiming the value of their assets to be on their books, whether or not those assets are in actual productive use, or

even exist. Consequently the consumer's electric and gas bill becomes swollen in proportion to the inflated capital valuation or the uneconomical physical expansion of the utility properties serving him. The Federal Trade Commission maintains that the principle of "prudent investment" rather than that of "fair value" or "reproduction cost" should be used in approving new capital issues and in establishing the electric and gas rates to be charged consumers. The principle of fair valuation, now commonly used, leads to overcapitalization; and overcapitalization, it declares, "puts a premium on speculation in the fruits of fraud."

When a corporation is formed to hold the capital stock of operating companies, little of either physical or social value is added to the system. Yet large issues of highly speculative capital stock in the new company are sold to the public, while those in control issue to themselves, at small cost, other stock which, however, frequently embodies all the voting rights in the company.

### Stock Easily Controlled

Holding company upon holding company may be piled upon the underlying operating units. The consumers at the bottom must support the entire structure. In the Associated Gas and Electric System nine holding and sub-holding companies intervene between the top trust company and the bottom operating utility. Those at the apex of such organizations are able to control the entire system with a minimum of investment, and consequently with a minimum of risk—the small investor is the one who takes the chances. Thus, an investment of \$1 in the common stock of the Corporation Securities Company of Chicago, one of the peak structures of the now bankrupt Insull pyramid, was able to exercise control over about \$2,000 invested in some of the operating companies at the base.

The Federal Trade Commission cites the United Corporation, of the Morgan-Bonbright group, as the "outstanding illustration of a super-holding company organization." With only one important break, the United Corporation maintains practical control over a network of public service utilities extending from the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River to the Gulf of Mexico. Through interlocking directorates and other non-risk-attended devices the corporation exercises commanding influence over the management

of the United Gas Improvement Co., the Public Service Corp. of New Jersey, the Niagara Hudson Power Corp., the Columbia Gas and Electric Corp., the Commonwealth and Southern Corp., and their subsidiaries. At the public utilities investigation representatives of the United Corporation also admitted practical control of the Consolidated Gas Co., of New York, although the holding company owned only 3.9 per cent of the total voting power at the time.

#### Milking Process Very Pleasant

In addition to royally trimming the consumer, by requiring him to pay returns on a superstructure as well as on the service unit supplying him, and the investor, by selling him stock having no physical assets behind it, holding corporations consistently engage in "milking" their operating concerns. It is the customary procedure to charge excessive fees for various financial, supervisory and engineering services, performed under broad contractual agreements. The Federal Trade Commission's inquiry disclosed that "the tributes and profits thus exacted have in some instances ranged from 50 to over 300 per cent of the cost of such services."

During 1930 the income from servicing fees collected by the W. S. Barstone and Co., of the Associated Gas and Electric group, amounted to \$2,000,000, while the total expenses, including taxes, of such services were only \$250,000, exactly one-eighth of the sum charged. Such exorbitant service fees, swelling the profits of the top company, are quoted as expenses to the operating company, and are used frequently as an argument for maintaining or raising existing electric and gas rates. With little state and less federal regulation, persons outside of the organization have no way of knowing what fees for these services would be proper.

The Stone and Webster Engineering Corp. constructed the Keokuk Dam on the Mississippi River at an actual cost of \$22,809,000. The "ledger cost" of the project charged to the operating company was \$44,718,000—a write-up of 92 per cent. Securities were then issued against the new capitalization; net proceeds accruing to Stone and Webster and its affiliates from their sale amounted to over \$16,000,000.

#### Gyping the Stockholders, Too

Another common method of plundering operating units is the lending of funds to subsidiaries, for their financial needs, at higher interest rates than the subsidiaries would have had to pay in the open market. Still another profitable device is employed in regard to the payment of federal income taxes. Customarily, the parent company collects in advance the taxes which its subordinates will have to pay individually. It then avails itself of its privilege of filing a consolidated income statement covering the entire system. Very sizable savings in taxes result from the consolidated returns; but does the holding company share it with the operating companies? It does not. The difference remains in the pockets of the top corporation.

Between 1922 and 1930, Cities Service Co. collected \$11,600,000 as taxes from its subsidiaries, but itself paid only \$1,700,000 in taxes on the consolidated income returns for that period. The North American Co. made a profit of nearly \$1,300,000 between 1927 and 1929 in a similar manner, while the Associated Gas and Electric Co. collected \$2,900,000 in the years 1926 to 1929 but paid no federal income tax whatever during that time.

As long as the same people make up the boards of directors of both holding and operating company, and as long as the public placidly accepts the rates demanded, who cares whether the relationship between the two organizations is an anti-social one?

Manipulation of the stock market through transactions of public utilities and their officials in the stocks of their own and allied companies was another delightful practice revealed by the Federal Trade Commission's investigation. During the four years preceding the end of 1930, Henry L. Doherty and Co. bought 34,000,000 shares of the common stock of its affiliate, the Cities Service Co., on the Curb Exchange at a cost of \$966,000,000. Meanwhile it sold 41,500,000 shares elsewhere. Thus, in order to effect net proceeds of only \$81,000,000 as new capital funds for the Cities Service Co., the investment trust had sold seven times and repurchased six times the net volume of shares issued to outside purchasers. Between November 1, 1928, and October 15, 1929 (less than a year), Doherty and Co. expended \$406,000,000 in running up the price of the Cities Service common stock from \$17.69 to \$68.13 per share, the peak just before the crash of the market. Two weeks later, despite an additional expenditure of \$138,000,000 by Doherty and Co., in an effort to prevent a break in the price, the stock was again selling for \$20.00 per share.

The Insull management, working through Halsey, Stuart and Co., during June and July, 1929, manipulated the price of Middle West Utilities Co. common stock "in order to create a condition favorable for refinancing the Middle West Utilities Co. and to prepare the Insull investors to accept the plan when it should be announced." To accomplish this end, Halsey, Stuart and Co., with its own and borrowed funds, caused purchases of the stock to be made until the price rose from \$180.88 per share on June 17, 1929, to \$308.25 a month later. The public was buying now. When the price reached \$364.00 on July 27 the Insulls knew that the time was ripe for announcing their scheme. They proposed to exchange 10 new shares of common for each share outstanding. Two days later, with the publishing of their plan, the price on the New York Curb exchange soared to \$492.00. The Insull management now organized a syndicate to sustain the purchases. The syndicate succeeded in elevating the price to \$540.00 per share.

In order to reimburse themselves for their expenditures, the syndicate and the investment house formed a new company in October, the now bankrupt Corporate Securities Co., of Chicago, by merging

two former Insull and Halsey, Stuart firms. Stock in the new company was sold to the public for \$36,350,000. Halsey, Stuart and Co. were repaid their outlays in cash, and the Insull family in stock in the new firm. In addition both parties received 1,000,000 shares of common, carrying with it the voting control of the new company. "Thus," reports the Federal Trade Commission, "was recouped from the public the expenditures made in the process of putting up the price of Middle West Utilities Company common stock in June and July, 1929."

The 24 concrete proposals offered by the Commission as remedies for the holding company evil include direct statutory inhibitions making it:

1. Unlawful to sell utility service when rates are based on a greater amount than is actually and prudently invested in the property.

2. Unlawful to issue or sell securities in excess of the actual and prudent investment, or to use the mails for any such securities.

3. Unlawful for holding company to collect anticipated income taxes from operating subsidiaries beyond amount paid to the government.

4. Unlawful for holding company to charge fees for loans or services at greater than the open market rate, or to impose contracts for performing services without approval by the federal regulatory body.

5. Unlawful for any corporation or holding company, or officer or director thereof, to deal in their own securities on the stock exchanges.

6. Unlawful to pay dividends out of funds not representing actual earnings.

7. Unlawful for holding company to issue preferential securities based on its holdings in other holding or sub-holding companies.

8. Unlawful for investment concerns to issue securities for utility companies with which they have interlocking directorships or identity of ownership.

9. Unlawful to issue more than two kinds of stock—one class of common and one of preferred, each with full voting power; unlawful to issue no-par stock.

Six recommendations for sharp taxation, designed to eliminate all holding companies within five years, included:

1. Annual tax on income of holding companies received from operating subsidiaries in other states than that in which holding company is incorporated.

2. Annual excise on holdings in other utility companies, or on such holdings of officers, directors, trustees, etc.

3. Annual tax on stocks and bonds in excess of prudent cost of fixed capital plus working capital.

4. Annual tax on each transaction between corporations in which either corporation, or officer or director thereof, has an interest in more than one side of the transaction.

5. Annual tax on gross income in excess of a stated amount.

6. Annual tax on authorized but unissued securities.

# Big Business Works Out Program

THE strategy of big business in respect to the present depression is beginning to be revealed. Though these measures are not set forth in one piece as a platform they are being followed assiduously on a number of fronts.

## 1. Restriction of Production

Big business has ratified a program of restriction of production. Most of the NRA codes have given trade associations unlimited power in their respective industries but this power tends to adjust production to the limited capacity of con-

**It is well to see where we are going in this country under the beneficent leadership of the Bardos and the Harrimans.**

and its campaign for the dole indicates that big business has no solution for the unemployment problem in the United States. It is willing to see 10,000,000 persons go on a starvation dole from the government, lured on by the false hope that business is going to pick up to that extent that these 10,000,000 persons will be reabsorbed in industries. Everyone knows that this is an unlikely culmination of the present maladjustment of the economic system. Big business asserts that the dole will cost the nation less than a work relief program. It should say the dole has less threat to the vested interests of big business than the work relief program.

## 3. Increased Profits

Business expects to enter an era of increased profits. Through the control set up under the NRA codes with millions of need-less men cast out of industry and put upon the communities for sustenance, with labor-saving machinery installed in plants, business looks to see an era of prosperity for business. Already indica-

tions point to heavy takings in some industries. Radio broadcasting had the best year in its history in 1934 with a promise that 1935 would exceed 1934.

## 4. Subsidization of Ailing Industries

Big business is graciously committed to the principle of government subsidization of ailing industries. It does not complain when the government comes to the succor of railroads, shipping, coal, construction and other industries which can not save themselves. Big business is averse to social insurance, that is, the subsidization of the out-of-work man, but it believes that it is the patri-

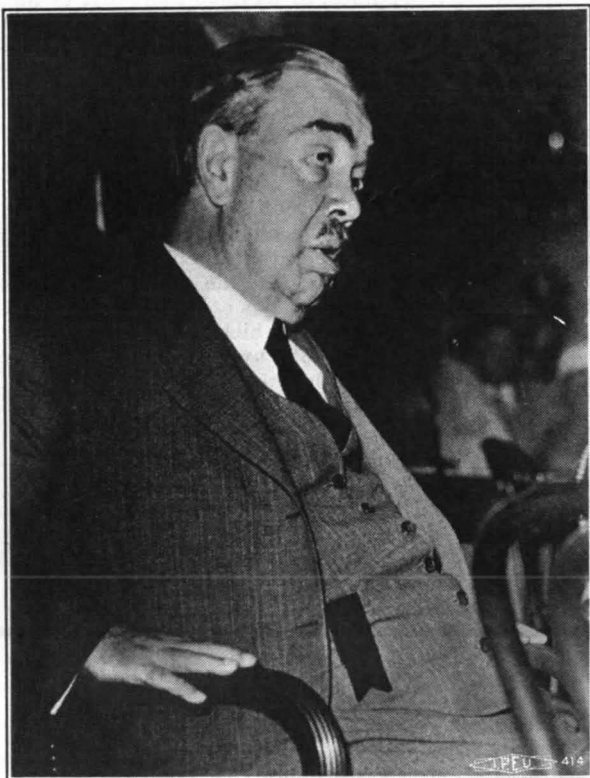
otic duty of government to save ailing businesses. The ancient slogan, "less government in business and more business in government" means that more businesses are to have their hands in Uncle Sam's pocketbook.

In recent weeks the aviation industry has flooded the press with stories that it is virtually bankrupt and that it can not continue to exist unless the government supplied large subsidies, in fact, mail contracts. The shipping interests notoriously make up an industry that has continuously and continually asked for funds and received funds from government coffers. Both industries are expected to be "saved" by government funds. Whatever effort is made by business interests to head off prevailing wage rates on government public work programs, these same business interests are not adverse to having alien industries fully subsidized by taxpayers' funds.

## 5. Sales Tax

In order now to raise money for the dole and for the subsidization of big business, the government is not by any error to increase income taxes. The government is to raise its revenues through the sales tax. This means, of course, that the tax burden is to be lifted from the shoulders of those who can really afford to pay the taxes and put upon the impoverished, underlying population. This is called the painless route to prosperity.

(Continued on page 134)



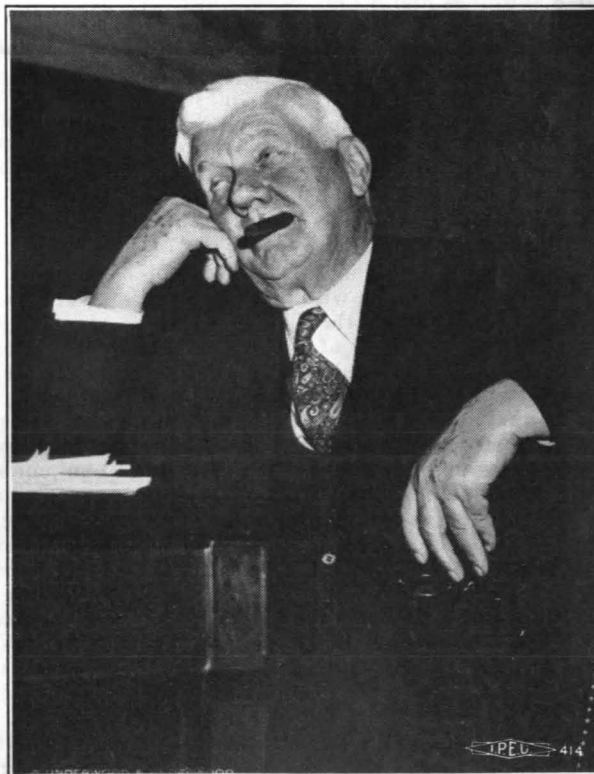
HENRY R. CARSE

President of the Electric Boat Company, the Link in the Chain Forged by the World-Wide Munitions Trust.

sumption measured by lowered incomes of millions and no incomes for millions. On the face of it the opposition of business men to the 30-hour week proposal of the American Federation of Labor appears to be the struggle to maintain production. This is only a specious fact; the truth is that the proposal of labor for the 30-hour week implies a facing of the whole problem of technical changes in industry, and this big business refuses to do. Big business wants to maintain the present tempo of production without regard for the 10,000,000 unemployed and without regard to the facts that technologically America is equipped to produce much more than it is now producing and that unlimited markets lie among the idle people at home.

## 2. Doles on a Permanent Basis

The opposition of big business to the social insurance program of the President



MEET THE BOSS

Clinton L. Bardo, President, National Manufacturers Association, Under Fire For Activities in the Ship Industry.

(See page 111)

# Costly Dials Make Subscribers Work

By JULIA O'CONNOR PARKER, President, Telephone Operators' Department, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

*Editor's Note: This article is based upon wide technical experience and information. It is authoritative. In addition, it is timely, in view of the fact that Congress has just ordered an investigation of A. T. and T.*

ONE does not need to take a flight into the dark to ascertain three facts about dial switching: (1) Its excessive cost; (2) its relative inefficiency; (3) its elimination of man-power. One need only to go to the telephone records themselves. I have in my possession three sheets entitled Exhibit No. X-323. These are photostatic copies of the telephone company's said exhibit in the case of Lindheimer et al vs. Illinois Bell Telephone Company, No. 440, and Illinois Bell Telephone Company vs. Lindheimer et al, No. 548, known as the Chicago rate case.

The figures upon this Exhibit X-323 are therefore the telephone company's figures. First, with reference to the comparative cost of the Bell Company panel, machine switching equipment and manual telephone equipment; and, second, as showing the extent to which labor (telephone operators) is replaced by the machine switching system.

## When Will Dials Play Out?

With reference to the comparative cost, Sheet A of this exhibit shows a comparison between a new manual office of 8,660 lines and a new panel machine switching office of the same number of lines as of December 31, 1933, and it shows a second comparison between a new manual office of 17,124 lines and a like number of lines in a panel machine switching office, but as of an assumed date of December 31, 1945, and with the assumed condition that Chicago at that date will be a 100 per cent machine switching city.

It will be noted that the figures followed by a star made with a pen are red ink figures, so that the figures of the first comparison (as of December 31, 1933) show an annual loss in the cost of automatic equipment of \$58,300 and an annual loss per station of \$6.73. With the assumed date (December 31, 1945) and the assumption that the city will be 100 per cent machine switching at that time, the figures show an annual saving for the machine switching system of \$107,600 and an annual per station saving of \$6.28.

In other words, from the beginning of this conversion plan in 1920 up to the present time the machine switching system of the Bell Company on a single exchange of 8,660 lines shows an annual loss of \$58,300 and a per station loss of \$6.73.

There is, therefore, during the intervening 14 years, that is, during the transition period, a terrific loss in the whole Bell System, due to the adoption of the

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**Authority in telephone field throws searching light upon the costly mechanical system of switching in its relation to public needs.**

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panel type switchboard. That is, a terrific increase in the cost of the panel type system over the manual system, and subscribers have had to pay rates based upon this increased cost. Even if it is true that when the system is 100 per cent converted to panel type automatic there will be a saving effected, still this enormous loss that has occurred during the conversion period will have to first be absorbed, and there is no provision made in the above figures for taking care of this loss, before a parity can be reached between the two systems, or before any credit in any way of a saving can be given to the panel type system. This loss must run into many hundreds of millions of dollars for the entire country, and will run into many more hundreds of millions before the conversion is completed so that it will necessarily be many years subsequent to December 31, 1945, before a favorable credit for the panel type system can be shown. "Hundreds of millions" is not an overstatement of what the panel type system has injected in increased plant value, upon which is based rates to telephone subscribers. A. T. & T. financial reports will show that the plant value of the Bell System increased \$2,500,000,000 during the period in which this transition from manual to automatic apparatus has been in progress.

## Costly Connecting Apparatus

The reason the cost of conversion to machine switching mounts up during the conversion period (which has now been in progress for 14 years and is less than 50 per cent completed) is due to the fact that it is necessary to employ a great deal of very intricate and expensive equipment in order to switch calls between manual exchanges and machine switching exchanges during this period. The theory is that when the conversion is completed to 100 per cent machine switching these auxiliary systems will not be needed. They will then be a complete loss.

In this Sheet A the loss in labor in the single office of 8,660 lines drops from \$190,700 per year in the manual office to \$44,700 per year in the machine switching office. With the city of Chicago on 100 per cent machine switching, this Sheet A shows that the operator employment in an exchange of 17,124 lines would drop from \$387,600 per year in

the manual exchange to \$55,900 per year in the machine switching office.

Sheet B of the telephone company's Exhibit X-323 is a comparison as of December 31, 1945, assuming at that time a condition of 60 per cent machine switching and 40 per cent manual operation in Chicago.

Under this assumed condition this Sheet B shows a saving for machine switching in 1945, in an exchange of 17,124 lines, of \$44,000 annually, or an annual saving per line of \$2.57.

## 70,000 Operators Lose Jobs

On the labor situation, that is, the replacement of telephone operators by the machine, it shows an annual operator expense in the manual office of 17,124 lines of \$387,600, which in the panel type machine switching office drops to an annual operator expense of \$55,900. This corroborates the finding of the Bureau of Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor which shows that as of February, 1932, over 70,000 operators had lost employment due to the adoption of the machine switching system.

Sheet C of this Exhibit X-323, in a machine switching office of 4,550 lines (with 1933 cost figures) shows an annual loss for the panel machine switching office of \$71,600 and an annual loss per line of \$15.73. It shows that the operator employment in this manual office of 4,550 lines would amount to \$92,900 with the machine switching equipment. This Sheet C is significant because it considers the usual sized exchange outside of the great cities, and it makes the comparison based upon present-day figures. It seems to offset entirely the conditions assumed and the results obtained by Sheet B. In the Sheet C with an exchange one-third the size of that considered in Sheet B, an assumed saving of \$44,000 in the case of the larger exchange, is converted into a \$71,600 loss in the smaller exchange (the starred item is red figures).

## Small Stations Suffer Most

In this Exhibit X-323 the price per line for manual equipment of \$70, \$67 and \$76 is more than 100 per cent high. The most modern manual type switchboard with service very much faster, that is capable of answering many more calls per hour than the machine switching boards, runs about \$30 to \$35 per line. If the figures in this exhibit for the manual board were correct, this would make a much stronger showing against the machine switching equipment.

Relatively speaking the same comparisons above given between manual equipment and panel type automatic equipment apply to manual equipment and the step-by-step automatic system. Both of these automatic systems replace



operators to the same extent, both are slower in service than the manual system, and both are very much more expensive and require higher rates from subscribers.

We believe this automatic equipment should not be permitted in the telephone industry because of its enormous expense, its inefficiency, and its admitted replacement on a large scale of labor by machine operation, and upon the additional ground that the expense of the system increases the rates for telephone service to subscribers.

You will note on the Exhibit X-323, the heading "Excess Cost C. I. over S. F. Trk Equipment." These letters C. I. mean call indicator and S. F. Trk. means straight forward trunking.

The reason for the cost of construction mounting up so during the transition period is due to the expensive equipment for switching calls from manual to dial offices and vice versa. The call indicator board is the equipment by which a call from a dial office to a manual office is completed in the manual offices. For example—in a multi-trunking area of, say 40 exchanges, when the first office in this area is converted from manual to dial it is necessary to install a call indicator board in each and every one of the other 39 offices in order that calls dialed by the subscribers may be completed. The call indicator board requires the services of an operator at the terminating exchange. The subscriber in the dial office dials the exchange code and the number he wishes. This process throws a light on the call indicator board in the manual office, and the number desired is indicated to the operator by lighted numerals which appear on a panel on her board. She then puts up the number, just as though she had received it verbally from another operator. The only calls which a subscriber completes wholly by the mechanical process are calls to his own exchange or to another dial exchange. Calls from dial to manual, and from manual to dial, require the service of an operator in the distant exchange, even though the distant exchange may be a dial office, if the call originates in a manual office.

#### Terms Are Made Clear

Straight forward trunking is the method by which calls are switched from exchange to exchange when both exchanges are manual. Straight forward trunking was introduced into telephoning about 15 years ago, or possibly 18. It was considered a great improvement over the previous method of call circuit trunking, and exchanges all over the Bell system were adapted, at attendant expense, of course, to straight forward trunking. Calls from a manual office to a dial office are completed in the dial office on equipment known as the "cordless B board." This call, originating in a manual office, is, of course, answered by an operator and she makes the contact with the distant exchange by means of this cordless B board. The cordless B board is a sort of an adding machine arrangement on which the B operator taps out the number she re-

# AMERICA ON THE WIRE



**AMERICANS** get more out of the telephone than any other people in the world.

Partly it is because we still have the pioneer qualities. We are restless, inquisitive, ambitious, sociable, ingenious, enterprising. The telephone is adapted to us and we are adapted to the telephone. But another reason why the average American uses the telephone more is that there are more telephones to use—more than thirteen million in the Bell System alone. And the service is better.

There are few persons in this country so isolated that the telephone cannot find them. Your telephone grows in value the more you use it—the more you rely on it to help you through the day's activities.

**BELL TELEPHONE SYSTEM**



More than 57,000,000 conversations a day are held over Bell System wires. It takes a telephone system of great size to render quick, reliable service to a great nation.

Bell Knows the Value of Human Appeal in Advertising. It Never Features Dial Telephones, But Seeks to Reach the Buying Public With Pictures of Girl Operators.

ceives verbally from a manual operator in the originating exchange. She has no multiple or no cords, but simply by this semi-mechanical process completes the call and rings the subscriber's bell. It will be noted that both the call indicator board, and the cordless B board require the services of an operator for completion of calls. Also that both these types of equipment become rapidly obsolete as one exchange after another is converted to machine switching.

In the column, marked "Notes" in the right-hand corner marked "Important Characters of Offices," C. R. means calling rate and the distinction is then made in the calling rate of two-party lines (1-MR) four-party lines (2-MR) and single lines (CB).

#### Dials in Emergency Calls

The union makes the claim, based upon its knowledge of operating conditions, that the dial telephone is practically use-

less in an emergency. On a manual telephone the mere removal of the receiver attracts the operator's attention simultaneously. She answers on the line at once and if she detects any unusual sounds, such as mumbling, moans, or sounds of a struggle, she can go into action at once on getting help. The panel and jack show plainly beside the light. It is the work of only a second or two to ascertain the location of that particular telephone.

On the dial telephone the releasing of the switch hook alone gives no immediate signal to the operator. If the receiver is left off on a dial telephone long enough a signal is eventually thrown up in the central office on the sender monitor board. This process takes two or three minutes at least before the signal is thrown. How long before an operator would answer on this sender monitor position is another story. This position is very rarely cov-

(Continued on page 134)

# Seek Wide Scope of Public Ownership

**P**UBLIC ownership has usually been related in the public's mind to municipal ownership of electric, water and gas utilities. The ninth biennial conference of the Public Ownership League of America in Washington, late in February, revealed a surprising public trend toward federal public ownership of many other types of service. A substantial section of the program and of the conference was given over to a discussion of the nationalization of money and printing. A resolution was introduced by W. R. Lenox, of Local Union No. 39, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Cleveland, Ohio, for the Federal ownership and control of all communications, including telephone, telegraph and radio. A proposal for government ownership of railways was made by former Senator Smith W. Brookhart. Bruce Bliven, of the New Republic, advocated government ownership of radio. Government housing came in for its share of illumination.

Labor's place in public ownership enterprises was presented by M. H. Hedges, director of research, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The Brotherhood was one of the sponsors of the conference, through G. M. Bugniazet, International Secretary. Adequate reports were made upon the Tennessee Valley development, New York's power program, Boulder Dam, municipal and public ownership movement in Quebec and Seattle's public power projects. The proposal was made by Carl D. Thompson, secretary of the league, for an Illinois Valley Utility Authority such as the Tennessee Valley now enjoys. A proposal was made for public ownership of electric utilities in the District of Columbia and for the development of water power on the Potomac, adjacent to the Capital.

Prominent on the program were: E. F. Scattergood, noted Los Angeles engineer, who has made such remarkable technical success of the municipal enterprise in California; J. D. Ross, Seattle; W. J. Spaulding, of Springfield, Ill.; Julius J. Reiter, mayor of Rochester, Minn.; James D. Donovan, superintendent of the municipal light and power plant of Kansas City, Kans.; Ernest E. Anders, commissioner of public utilities, Jacksonville, Fla., and many other representatives of important communities having successful public ownership enterprises.

Senator Rush D. Holt, Senator J. C. O'Mahoney, former Senator C. C. Dill, Senator Lynn J. Frazier, Congressman John E. Rankin, and Congressman William Lemke were prominent on the program. The philosophic side of public ownership was described by Father John A. Ryan, Dr. Henry Pratt Fairchild and Edward Keating, editor of Labor. Dr.

## Ninth biennial conference of the Public Ownership League reveals profound interest in federal ownership. I. B. E. W. takes part.

Fairchild found in public ownership the way out of the situation which he described as tragic:

"The tragic feature of this situation is that, as scientific research is demonstrat-

individuals incur a corresponding loss. And now that world society is so largely organized on this same basis it is becoming increasingly difficult to make money by selling among nations.

"The strife for competitive monetary profits therefore involves a continuous struggle for the impossible, and inevitably leads to innumerable destructive practices. A social structure built upon the insecure sands of such a fallacious principle must inevitably collapse."

One of the goals set up by the conference is the establishment of a federal department over municipalities which would perform services to cities, towns and villages similar to those performed by the Department of Agriculture for farm groups and the Department of Labor for labor groups. This idea is not new, say the public ownership leaders. Back in 1912 when this idea was suggested, it won the support, it is said, of Woodrow Wilson, then governor of New Jersey and candidate for the Presidency. He approved and supported the idea. The league proposes to take up this idea vigorously and persistently, seeking the co-operation of various municipal leagues and organizations.

Light was thrown upon a state owned project which was once the subject of violent controversy. This is the Bank of North Dakota, entirely owned and operated by the state of North Dakota. Alfred S. Dale, former state treasurer, told the conference that the Bank of North Dakota is making a thousand dollars a day profit. This profit accrues from the operation of investing public funds deposited by the State of North Dakota and political subdivisions on daily deposit and certificates of deposit. During recent years it has loaned \$39,000,000 to 20,000 farmers in the state. The state-owned bank weathered the depression when 500 private banking institutions failed, and it is now in a sounder position than at any time in its history.

## Resolution on Ownership of Telephone, Telegraph and Radio

Whereas the communication systems of the United States are by their very nature a public utility; and

Whereas the telephone, telegraph and radio have passed out of the realm of theoretical monopoly into the realm of actual monopoly on a national scale controlled from a central point through holding companies which constitute an intercommuted system; and

Whereas every local community of the United States is crying for relief from high rates and inadequate service; and

Whereas this intercommuted commu-

(Continued on page 138)



WILLIS J. SPAULDING

President, Public Ownership League, Esteemed Head of the Springfield Municipal Electric Enterprises.

ing more clearly every day, such a price-and-profit system is not only unworkable, but inherently self-destructive, under the conditions of modern social organization. Profits, taken in their correct meaning as the rewards of the ownership of business, are derived solely by selling the product of industry for more than the cost of production. In a society thoroughly organized on the existing system this is impossible, for the total income of the community, apart from owners, must always be precisely equal to the total cost of production. There is no surplus purchasing power by which aggregate prices may be raised above aggregate costs. A society cannot make money by selling to itself. Individuals may do so, but only as other



# Neutrality of Underwriters Questioned

By ENGINEER

UNDER date of January 10, the Underwriters' Laboratories of Chicago issued a report, which was prepared for the Edison Electric Institute, on installations of electric wiring within buildings having bare neutral grounded conductors. It is labeled "a fact-finding report" although the summary includes statements not based upon any disclosed facts. The report shows evidence of having been hastily prepared, and the bias of the writer is disclosed by the statement that "bare-neutral wiring is no longer an experiment" even though a special committee of the N. F. P. A. electrical committee has recently recommended that it be permitted only in the form of trial installations under controlled conditions.

The plan of procedure was for the laboratories' engineer to visit installations chosen to show typical conditions, to observe any observable effects and to make measurements. The measurements were mainly of the current flowing in wires of the circuit and in pipes not part of the normal circuit.

Many measurements are given which show to what extent the return current of a circuit divided between its bare neutral and other conducting paths within the building.

The use of a bare neutral is now recognized by the National Electrical Code for service entrance conductors but not for interior wiring. Installations where a bare neutral has been used in the interior wiring are mainly of two kinds. One of these consists of rigid conduit or electrical metallic tubing with one bare wire pulled in with one or two insulated wires; the other consists of AEIC cable, which is concentric cable having a neutral consisting of copper strands spiraled around one or two insulated wires, the strands being in contact with a sheath which consists of a steel ribbon wound spirally around the complete assembly.

## Summary of Tests Cited

The summary of tests with rigid conduit or electrical metallic tubing as the wiring method states that in nearly all cases at least half of the return current was found in the neutral conductor, and the remainder in the enclosing raceway.

With the AEIC cable the results were not so favorable. The current which returned over the neutral ran as low as 28 per cent and there were many instances below 50 per cent. The average of all cases is not given. In 14 installations where bonding to the pipe work was carried out in conformity to the stipulations of the N. F. P. A. special committee, the average was 56 per cent. Even where care was taken to prevent contacts with piping and other metal, the average rose only to 71 per cent.

What became of the by-path current? Some of it was found on water pipes, and some was not found at all. In at least one case it was found on the gas pipe!

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**Authority reviews bare-neutral report by Underwriters Laboratories for Edison Electric Institute. Has meaning for March 19 meeting of electrical committee.**

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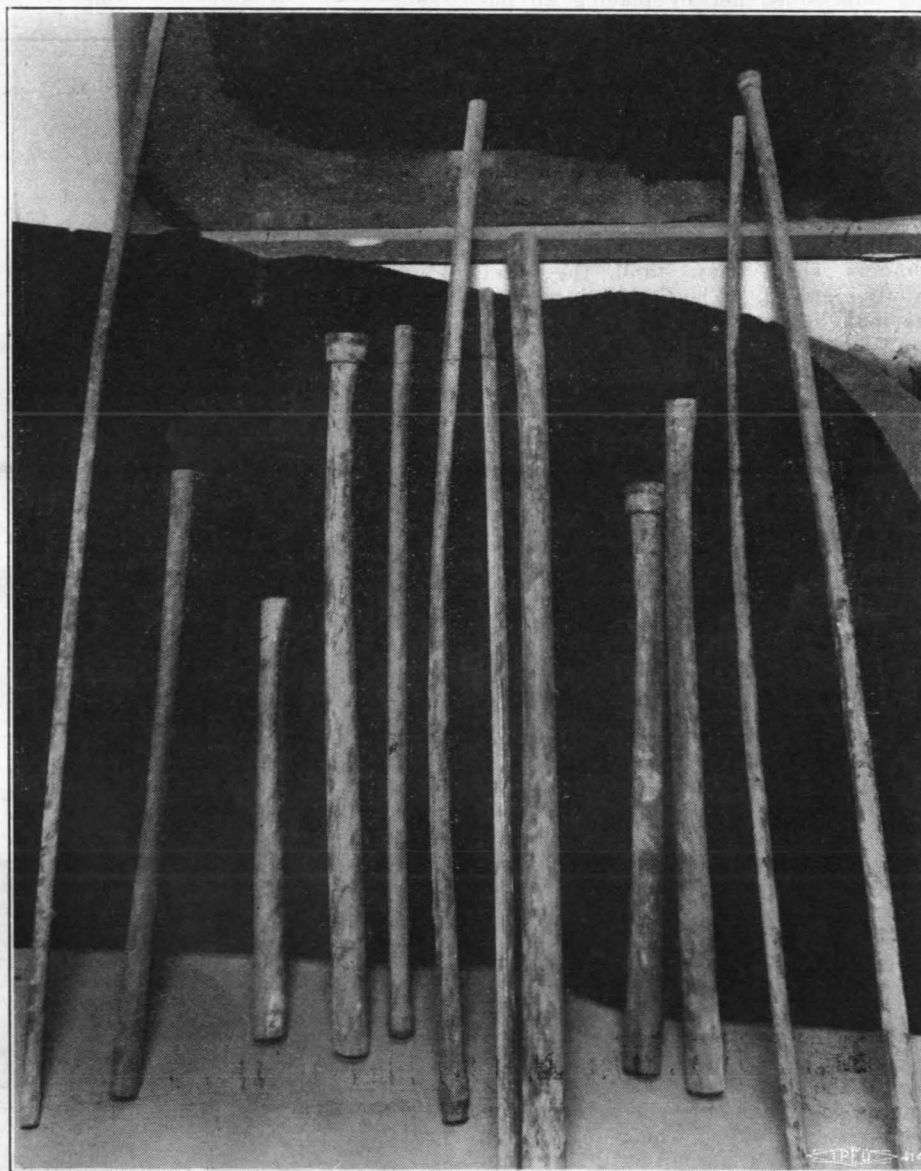
Currents of eight, nine and 11 amperes and similar values were found on water pipes. Where driven pipes were used instead of water pipes for ground connections, by-path currents were not so noticeable. Does this mean that the ground connection at the service switch was inadequate? Strangely enough, the report

has no information on the adequacy of grounding, although it is reported that 295 installations in the suburbs of Cleveland as well as others in the neighborhood of Detroit do not make use of water-pipe grounds. Whether such installations are adequately grounded would seem to be one of the most important items that could have been determined in such an investigation.

## Refused to Specify Conduit

In view of the large leakage currents circulating in unknown paths, as disclosed above for AEIC cable, one would expect to find a recommendation for rigid conduit in preference to AEIC cable, if a

(Continued on page 137)



When Electric Metallic Tubing (Thin Wall) Was Admitted to the National Electrical Code, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Protested the Entrance of This Material. The Above Specimens, Taken From a Federal Building in St. Louis, Mo., Were Sent to This Journal Through the Courtesy of A. C. Schmidt, Business Manager, I. U. No. 1. The Photograph Shows the Rapid Deterioration of This Material, Even While the Building Was Under Construction. Many of These Sections Have Been Flattened Out and Had To Be Replaced.

# Columbia Gorge Has Appeal Beyond Power

By DALE B. SIGLER, L. U. No. 125

**G**EOLOGISTS tell us that, aeons ago, the country lying east and north of the Cascade Range was a vast inland sea, held back by the mighty barrier of those mountains; that eventually the water found a way through, and the Columbia River carved its majestic way to the Pacific.

An old Wallowa chieftain once described, in typical manner, how "Speel-e-ai" had fashioned the river, transforming his two wayward sons, "Oo-lai-yan" and "Chi-at-kin" into mighty pinnacles which still guard its course. Rooster Rock and Beacon Rock stand today, separated by the stream which "Speel-e-ai" placed between them, the one below the other above, the place where he had subdued the fickle Goddess "Mult-no-mah," and imprisoned her by placing an immense boulder upon her hair which, in their struggle, had fallen like a cascade over and down the face of the cliff. Though he thus ended the continual warfare of his sons over the maiden, he was unable to keep her prisoner, for she tore loose from her marvelous hair and fled, leaving us the beauty of Multnomah Falls. Of a doubting white man who expressed the opinion that God had placed those wonders where they stand, the chief calmly inquired, "Who God?" Surprised, the man hesitatingly replied, "Why—I don't know—," but was interrupted with a triumphant "Ugh! Indian know! Speel-e-ai, him God."

Those of us who have breathed the tang of new cut timber, whose ears have thrilled to the symphony of singing saw and ringing sledge, who know the facts and circumstances surrounding the operations of him who was the greatest of all the great, have learned that the channel was prepared and the river placed in it by that master logger and tamer of rivers, Paul Bunyan, that he might have an outlet for the vast log drives which he took out of what is now the "Inland Empire." If you doubt, go and see—a country devoid of timber, logged off, as only Paul himself could have logged it.

However, the origin of the Gorge of the Columbia is perhaps best expressed in the poem, "Each In His Own Tongue": "Some call it evolution, others call it—God!" For surely only the touch of the Master could have left the magnificence which is there.

I stood, one summer evening, at the Vista House, with a friend from the east. It had rained and the air was as sweet as the breath of Flora, clear as a gem of purest crystal. We looked away toward the east where the sky was beginning to darken over the break in the mountains through which the river makes its way. Clear cut as figures upon a gigantic cameo, we marked the massive succession of buttress and cliff, curving in and out in keeping with the silver thread of water flowing far below us. Turning, as we followed its course, we

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**Member pauses for a moment to survey beauty of great cleft before it passes with changes wrought by man's desire for energy, more energy.**

---

faced the west and saw, past the widening sweep of the hills, the gap in the coast range through which the river finally makes its way to the sea which it so long has sought. The sun was setting, and flashing up from the earth's far rim, the rays caught and bathed the under side of the now fast fleeting clouds with a flaming radiance of gold and crimson. A

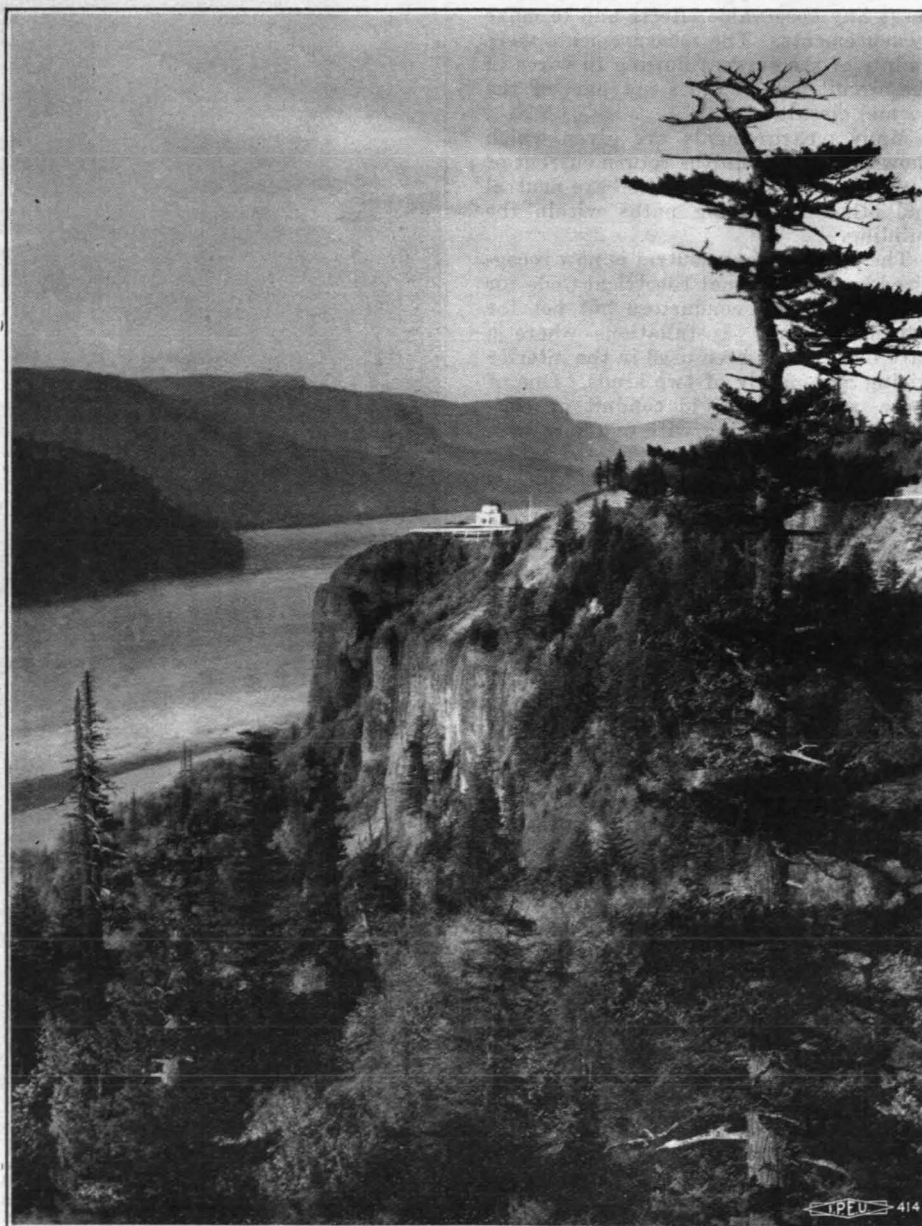
single bird call sounded. I watched my friend, waiting for the expression of his appreciation, for he had travelled much, and talked well. For long minutes he did not speak. Then, in a hushed, almost awed tone came the one word, "Gorgeous!"

Gorgeous! Could it be that the word was coined just to fittingly express the majesty and grandeur of that magnificent view?

To you who have seen it, I urge that you return. To those who have not, I beg that you come soon. For even now the scene is changing.

An ancient Indian told my grandfather, nearly a hundred years ago, of a great stone arch which spanned the gorge from side to side. It was destroyed

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SWEEP OF CLIFF, STREAM AND SKY



# Veteran Gives Tardy Praise to I. O.

By TIP REYNOLDS, L. U. No. 65

NOT infrequently I receive a letter from some old-timer who used to shoulder his kit and "boom" up this way in the good old days of plenty of free lunch you might snatch up with a good mug of beer for a nickel. Invariably, these correspondents broach the subject as to whether or not there still is a Local Union No. 65; if so, would I please advise where it is located and if "Slim, Shorty, Humpy or Windy So-and-So" is still gouging money out of the pole and wire corporations by walking 90-foot sticks for how much a day?

To all and sundry, there is such a local, in the same old place, though it seldom becomes known through the courtesy of these columns. We still have an eye-brow hold in the picture of international want and distress, still are fondly clinging to courage sufficient to bolster our belief that a real fighting spirit cannot eventually be denied those pleasantnesses of life which we all desire, deserve and propose to strive for to the end.

Due to a handicap which is somewhat embarrassing, I rarely attend meetings. Have been away from actual employment in the electrical field for about 15 years, nevertheless I am a competent witness in regard to the ups and downs of most all labor organizations and I congratulate the entire membership of this Brotherhood that their welfare is as well preserved as it today remains.

During my activities in another field of endeavor, during the 15 semesters aforementioned I have had rather an unprecedented opportunity to observe conditions as they passed along and left behind what may be viewed today with much apprehension in many union brotherhoods, particularly the larger railway brotherhoods. Loss of members to some of them has left a burdensome task to remaining members. The citation of the principal burden may be a surprise to many of you, especially so, if you make comparison of cost of belonging to the I. B. E. W. An illustration in one of those orders offers a true criterion of the same condition in others. In one of them, and this is by no means an oddity, I know of a Brother who after years upon years of faithful membership, recently was obliged to drop out, after having paid the preceding month the sum of \$27.50 for dues, assessments and insurance. His insurance policy, a brotherhood policy, represented \$14 of the sum above mentioned, the balance being monthly dues and assessments. Think of it, from \$18 to \$22 or more each month! Three thousand dollars was the amount of the policy, and he had to croak or lose a couple of his legs to realize upon it.

Admittedly, I have always been, and still am, considered somewhat of a so-called radical—not quite tough enough to wander across the ocean to lead those who would behead all kings and their ilk and not tame enough to sit idly by and with

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**Concludes that all in all, in such a world as this, union benefits give greatest return on investment. Bouquets hide no brick-bats. "No union accomplishing so much with so little."**

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smiles appreciate the damnable political set-up in Washington. Along with many others of my kind, I have, and they have at various times, heaped plenty of condemnation upon the I. B. E. W., as a whole, dropping generous hunks of it upon the heads of those high in command in the organization, as well as those high in command of about everything else, whether governmental, corporate or some soapbox order, sometimes re-christening all of them with new names, such as parasites, or some name even less appropriate.

Some of my friends may say my "justice bump" must be melting, that I may be going haywire mentally, selfish to the extent of looking for a remunerative assignment possibly when I state that as I grow older and use judgment created and acquired from experience and knowledge of things as they are, I can only conclude that this organization must have had thoughtful and efficient management when it permits me today to enjoy \$1,000 insurance in our benefit association, slips me a few bucks each week if I be flat on my back and in need, and gives my bene-

ficiaries a few more hundred from the local union if I "slide out." I say, "Toughy," wot wud yer join anyware elct an' git that much fer t'ree berries uh munth?

Positively, no other union brotherhood is accomplishing so much with so little and whether we approve or disapprove of some of the things which our past officers have aggravated us with, or our present or future ones may impose upon us, it must rightly and decently be conceded that we could not possibly have been as well off as we are today had the hot heads (including myself) of former days been permitted to blow the roof off certain plans which unquestionably proved to have been logical and sound.

Today a better spirit of co-operation is afoot in this organization and in the organization of man. The "Huey Longs" of today in the I. B. E. W. accomplish better results by using sensible and sane methods than any of us old floor-stompers and arm-wavers did on the floor of the old union hall 25 years or so ago—or was it on the bar-room floor just around the corner when we were not at the orderly, soberly-ruled regular meeting with those we sometimes nicked "Cissor-Bill"?

But why continue? Local No. 65 wishes you all well, and you are always welcome if you sail this way. We expect to continue in business for a long time yet on top of old "Hell-Hole Hill," the richest hill on earth, so 'tis said, and surely as rich as the richest when it comes to harboring a wealth of abuses to inflict

(Continued on page 133)



On the Job, the Wireman Is Concerned With Technical Questions. But When He Has Time to Think, He Goes Into the Question of Labor Organization, and Beyond to Economics, and Politics.

# Alabama Power Company's Alibi Smashed

EDWARD LEE was an employee of the Alabama Power Company. He was a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. He was active in support of his union organization. He was suddenly separated from his job by the company. Vice President G. X. Barker took the matter before the Atlanta Regional Labor Board. The company resorted to the usual alibi to the effect that Mr. Lee had been on the job with the odor of whisky on his breath. The company submitted two affidavits to this effect. Vice President Barker, however, was able to present evidence to the effect that two employees who were active in company union affairs were found drunk on the job by the divisional superintendent of the Mobile division and that neither of these men were discharged. In fact, the superintendent showed compassion for one of these violators of the rules and picked him up and took him home in his own car. The second violator, who was so drunk that he fell at the superintendent's feet, was suspended for only a few days.

Another charge brought against Edward Lee was that he had left a guy wire on a highway. Later a boy loitering on this road picked up this guy wire and threw it over a 110,000-voltage line, causing an interruption of service. A close examination of the foreman bringing this charge deduced the testimony that the foreman did not know who actually left the guy wire on the roadway but that he had handled the truth carelessly in respect to Mr. Lee.

The decision of the regional labor board, sixth district, follows:

"In the matter of  
"Complaint of International  
Brotherhood of Electrical  
Workers for Edward Lee.

"Against

"Alabama Power Company,  
Birmingham, Ala.

"Regional Labor Board  
"Sixth District  
"Docket No. 172

"After carefully considering the evidence in this matter, in the light of the arguments submitted to us, it is our opinion that the proof shows that the dismissal of Edward Lee involves a discrimination against him because of union activity.

"Without attempting a complete analysis of all the proof, the situation as we see it is essentially this:

"Lee had been in the employ of the company for many years, and had been advanced to a responsible position. The letter discharging him specifies two reasons, neither of which are adequately sustained by the proof. It may be that the company is not absolutely limited by the reasons stated in this letter, but when its official undertook to specify in writing the reasons for the discharge, a claim now that there existed some other ade-

**The ancient dodge that a man discharged for union activity was discharged for some minor cause exposed by Regional Labor Board. Edward Lee ordered reinstated.**

quate reason for his discharge, but which was not specified, comes with very little force.

"The two reasons specified are in effect, (1) that Lee had been working his crew overtime in violation of NRA regulations; and (2) he was becoming inefficient.

"As to the first reason, it is sufficient to say that the time his crew actually worked had been regularly reported by him and no complaints had been made. We rather construe the attitude of the management at the hearing to mean that Lee had not in fact worked his crew in violation of NRA regulations. Hence we do not find that the first reason is justified.

"As to the second reason, the careful presentation of criticisms of Lee's work does not show anything of sufficient substance to justify a discharge. It is doubtless true that no man presents a perfect record and that a careful study of the work of any employee will disclose some minor matters subject to criticism. We do not take these criticisms up for detailed discussion, but express the opinion that no one could regard them in detail without being convinced that none of them would have caused Lee's discharge had there not been something else in the situation.

"There was at the time an intense issue between the independent union

allied with the American Federation of Labor and the Company Union. Lee was aggressively supporting the independent organization. This he had a right to do under Section 7-a of the National Industrial Recovery Act. We cannot escape the conclusion that his activity in this respect brought about a discharge which would not otherwise have occurred.

## "Recommendation

"We recommend that Edward Lee be promptly reinstated to the position from which he was discharged. If this recommendation is promptly carried out we do not recommend any back pay. If there is substantial delay in carrying out the recommendation permission is granted for an application to be made with respect to back pay. If the recommendation is not carried out the matter will be referred to the National Labor Relations Board for such action looking to enforcement as it may determine.

"This case was heard by the chairman, Mr. Marion Smith, and by Mr. A. L. Zachry, from 'Industry,' and Mr. O. E. Petry, from 'Labor.'"

## Company Union Man Talks

Several months ago Alabama and the south were electrified by a frank statement made by a lineman member of a company union about the power in mere threat of unionization. That letter is still being read in the south. We quote in part:

"Of course I wouldn't try to influence you in any way toward joining the union, but you probably noticed that a few of the employees got raises on account of the union. Now if just the fumes from union laying mash will cause our golden-egg goose to quit molting and go to laying, boy! what will she do when we go to feeding it to her! That mash has plenty of vitamins in it and she needs it to keep her from setting.

"The other day while continuing the sob story, one of the bosses told me the company would lose, beginning the first of June, \$100,000 per year on account of a rate cut. That sounds like an enormous amount to you and me, and it is, and they know it. But to them it is not enough to make a big fuss about. Last year our company took in over \$15,000,000. One hundred thousand is only 1-150th part of \$15,000,000. One hundred and fiftieth of a man's salary of \$100 per month is 66 cents or about five packages of cigarettes. Now if the company had only cut everybody's salary five packages of cigarettes I don't believe many of them would go around sobbing about it.

"Here is something you had better be sobbing about, though; and that is that the buying power of the dollar is down to 59 cents. That is the same as a 41 per cent cut in salary."



G. X. BARKER  
Vice President, International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers.



# Prodigious Power in Mississippi Valley

(Editor's Note: There follows a section of the report of the Mississippi Valley committee of the Public Works Administration, dealing with power resources. This is the third report made in the last three months bearing upon a national plan for America. The first was the report of the National Planning Board; the second, the report of the National Resources Board, both reported in January ELECTRICAL WORKERS' JOURNAL.)

THE total water-power possibilities of the Mississippi Valley, together with the installed capacity of existing plants, both hydro and fuel generation, are given in the accompanying graph.

An analysis of the data on which this chart is based shows that while the water power possibilities of the Mississippi River and its tributary streams approximate 16,000,000 kilowatts, not more than 2,000,000 kilowatts have been developed. It thus appears that around seven-eighths of the Valley's water-power resources are yet undeveloped.

The low-cost and medium-cost power sites possible of development are estimated to total 11,836,400 kilowatts, a close approximation to the total present installation of all kinds, namely, 13,065,000 kilowatts. Even though the government had title to a water-power project, the time and economy of its development would be influenced by the prevailing cost of power as produced by coal, gas, or oil—especially when the project is one disassociated from other objectives such as navigation or flood control. The low operating cost of hydro projects and the social advantage of utilizing an inexhaustible resource, and one wasted or lost if not used also have a bearing.

Out of the 11,836,400 kilowatts, of low and medium-cost feasible power installations undeveloped, 9,151,500 kilowatts, or 78 per cent, is in the Ohio sub-basin and therefore generally in the region of the largest populations and most important manufacturing centers. It does not follow, however, that any given dam in the Ohio drainage area is in such proximity to a center capable of utilizing its possibilities of power production as to make its development at present economically feasible. Such power sites have, as a rule, already been developed. However, even if relatively remote from consumption centers, and therefore uneconomical to develop, most power sites could be tied into a region-wide system. Once this objective is set, many site developments become feasible particularly if and when regional transmission networks are interconnected over wide areas.

In the case of dams built primarily for navigation or for flood control, or for

## Third national plan report on water resources focuses public attention on new source of hydro-electric energy.

these purposes combined, the power generated is frequently a byproduct. The percentage of constant or prime power in such installations is quite frequently too low to make power development attractive when such projects are consid-

*Planning for the use and control of water is planning for most of the basic functions of the life of the nation. We cannot plan for water unless we also consider the relevant problems of the land. We cannot plan for water and land unless we plan for the whole people. It is of little use to control rivers unless we also master the conditions which make for the security and freedom of human life. \* \* \* The need for planning arises out of the needs and desires of the people. Under the proven system of democracy no plan can be imposed upon the people. Government may inform, educate, and guide. It may mobilize resources for the common task. It cannot dictate. What must be sought is effective means for carrying out the common purpose, not only in the interest of the living generation but for the protection and enhancement of the lives of all the generations to come. \* \* \* We are but tenants and transients on the earth. Let us hand down our heritage not only unimpaired but enriched to those who come after us.*

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY COMMITTEE.

ered as individual units rather than as contributing agencies in a far-flung interconnected system. The diversification made possible by wide interconnections changes into firm power what would be secondary or "dump" power when not so interconnected. Some dams built exclusively for flood control can be used at certain seasons wholly for power, for floods never occur in all areas at the same time, and, in some regions, indications of flood conditions—or their absence—may appear well before the flood seasons. While the electrical industry has had an abundance of experience in operating hydro plants, in harmony with other hydro plants and with steam plants, the full technique of playing impounded waters as parts of a unified system remains to be further developed.

There is nothing novel in the conception of a completely unified system for generation and transmission of electricity. Over wide areas such unification exists. It should not be difficult to reconcile the public and private in-

terests involved in including in such a system power from dams which are built primarily for the proper use and control of the nation's water resources. The legal and operating problems appear relatively trivial in contrast to the great social purposes to be accomplished. The result will eventually be a single ocean of energy embracing every power source whether publicly or privately owned and all for the use of the mighty civilization developing in the Mississippi basin.

The need for co-ordination and unification is emphasized by an examination of the two accompanying maps\*—one showing the fields of operation of the leading private electric-power groups and the other the plants owned and operated by municipalities. The first has been called a "crazy patchwork" of operating areas, but the second is likewise a mass of independent, unrelated, and frequently uneconomic generating units. All concerned suffer from isolation.

## Excess Generating Capacity Seen

In an area comprising central and northern Illinois, eastern Missouri, northern Indiana, southern Michigan, and a section of Wisconsin—in which are located the cities of St. Louis, Chicago, Milwaukee, and Detroit—the installed generating capacity is 4,585,000 kilowatts, of which only 66 per cent was in use as measured by the maximum peak load. Using the British estimate of excess capacity of 15 per cent as necessary to sound operation if all generating plants were feeding into a comprehensive transmission system, there would still remain 1,086,000 kilowatts of installed equipment not in use. Studies of comparable areas in Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey show excess generating capacity over maximum peaks ranging from 30 to 37 per cent.

However, measured against the greatly increased demand which the policy outlined in this report would certainly make possible even the largest of these power centers are not "over built." Nor will the output of existing systems, public and private, augmented by hydro-electric power generated by the government as a part of its flood control-navigation-power policy, meet long-range requirements. The supply must still be supplemented by fuel stations, and happily the Mississippi Basin is rich in coal, lignite, gas, and oil. The wide range of higher uses to which the nation's oil supply can be put should, however, discourage its use for central-station-power supply.

The power picture of the Mississippi region which confronts us, therefore, is that of certain overbuilt areas unable to

\*Maps are not republished.  
(Continued on page 138)

# Sellers Thrive on Ignorance of Consumers

By CARL T. SCHMIDT, Economist

(Editor's Note: Here is a valuable discussion of the plight of the consumer by an authority. In view of the fact that wage-earners are not only producers, but consumers, the article is pertinent.)

SINCE the days of Adam Smith the devotees of economic orthodoxy have solemnly argued that the essential protection of consumers is provided by competition between buyers and sellers in the market place. The force of competition in a system of free enterprise, by giving each individual a pecuniary incentive to recognize the interests of others, was supposed to establish effective regulation in the social interest over production and distribution. The individual consumer, making his choices in a free competitive market, was assumed to exercise a final control that would force business enterprises to make honest goods and to sell them at fair prices. Thus, in the main, the consumer would need no protection other than that provided by his own good judgment and by the struggle of sellers for his favor. In this system, it was elaborately argued, maximum social welfare must be achieved.

In such terms the prevailing doctrines of economics have rationalized and justified a social system wherein every good and service becomes a salable commodity, produced specifically for money profits rather than for use.

Now, these conclusions may be logical developments from the stated premises. But, with respect to an economy organized as is ours today, the premises are obviously absurd and the conclusions certainly vicious. We are learning that such an economy can lead only to more and more tragic domination of men by a profit-seeking machinery of production and distribution. The prevailing policies and methods in our society reflect ever more the pecuniary interests of those who control it. And these interests demand persistently the elimination of the free competitive market for the good reason that competition must cut into profits.

## Competition Cuts Profits

Competition (whether or not in the past it resulted in an approximation of the ideal protective force envisaged by the orthodox economists) in our times is becoming ever less significant. To be sure, competitive enterprise has by no means entirely disappeared, although where it continues to exist it tends to take on a character quite different from that described by the theorists. A host of small enterprises is still active—people who cling to exaggerated notions of their importance in the economic system. Furthermore, their pathetic and servile devotion to the ideals of the big business leaders makes them ready servants of the interests of private monopoly.

But in the basically important branches

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**It is impossible for buyers to know the goods they buy, or to protect themselves from frauds, and adulterants.**

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of industry competition is extinct or so restricted that it cannot operate to protect the social interests. Moreover, the trends in the technological development of industry point to a continuing suppression of the competitive market.

## Big Business Controls

Surely elaborate demonstration is not needed to show that private monopoly has to a tremendous extent demolished the free market. Most of our industrial production comes at present from big business rather than from small enterprise. Great corporations, coordinated through informal agreements, trade associations, holding companies, interlocking directorates, codes, are the dominant business units of our time. These great combinations exert an enormous influence not only over those with whom they do business directly but also, and more importantly, over most of the institutions that make up the social environment. Their control is extending steadily over production and prices and trade practices. And this has been accompanied—as a necessary element in the concentration of controls—by an immense extension of business influence in all the channels of mass information. Increasingly, big business becomes the immediate or ultimate biased source of the information and misinformation on the basis of which consumers make their choices of goods, and by means of which great numbers of our people develop even their attitudes toward the ascendant economic system.

Thus, price and production policy is now determined by giant business combinations in a position to maximize profits by various restrictive devices, rather than by numerous independent firms forced by the exigencies of competition to give consumers their "money's worth." And instead of independent, individual consumer judgments discriminating between the various goods offered, there are mass standardized judgments moulded by advertising, the voice of big business, and by its cohorts, the press, radio and movies.

The managers of big business are expert in their own commodity fields, but almost never do they give consumers the benefit of their knowledge. Instead, the consumers are given what they have been taught to ask for. "The consumer is far less able to be his own judge of quality today when goods are very numerous, highly-fabricated and sold under thousands of brand names and

slogans than he was when goods were relatively few and familiar to him through his direct experience in producing and handling them. Consumers must buy under conditions no longer tolerated in government and industrial purchasing."\*

So it is that consumers have only the most rudimentary knowledge of the goods they buy. Their purchases are characteristically made on the basis of "intangible and glowing generalities." The growing complexity and variety of goods bewilders them. Harried and deceived by the emotional suggestions, the half-truths, and the frauds of advertising, they are hardly even aware of their victimization.

## Consumers Confused by Half-Truths

All of this helps to explain why great masses of our people are denied the most elemental kinds of security in their consumption of goods and services. In spite of our vast human, material and technological resources, we have not been able to provide millions of our people with anything approaching a secure standard of living. And not only do we produce far fewer goods than are needed for satisfactory living, but the goods we do produce are marketed in ways that mean only further debasement of living standards.

## Taught to Aid Obsolescence

Most of us realize, at least vaguely, how marketing methods of today reflect the profits-maximizing policies of big business. Attention is focused on invidious distinctions of style rather than on usefulness. Artificial obsolescence is consciously developed. Deliberately consumers are taught to become quickly dissatisfied with the things they have acquired. The market is flooded with useless novelties that drain away consumers' purchasing power without giving anything substantial in return. Extravagant illusions about untested, potentially harmful gadgets, downright quackeries, and dangerous nostrums are built up in the minds of consumers. The modern market stimulates wants that are quite alien to the requirements of comfortable living, and which make these requirements all the harder to get. It provides little or no serviceable information about the innumerable goods that consumers are asked to buy, and suppresses information about potentially better goods and ways of spending.† Moreover, the prevailing marketing system enlists in its aid every conceivable organization and technique for reaching the minds of consumers—not only plainly recognizable commercial advertising, but also more subtle media

\* Report of the Consumers' Standards Committee of the NRA Consumers' Advisory Board, December 1, 1933.

† Cf. Atkins, . . . *Economic Behavior*. New York, 1931. Vol. 2, p. 27.

(Continued on page 135)



# Who Are the Big 4 in Milk?

**T**HE mysterious shake-up in the U. S. Department of Agriculture, culminating in the disappearance of certain well-known public servants declared to be interested in protecting consumers from powerful business interests, has led the American people to ask, what are the big companies in the milk business?

"Today the largest middleman in milk doesn't handle a drop of it. This great corporation merely finances the smaller companies that do the collecting, preparing, and delivering. It is a super-company controlling 515 milk companies scattered around the country. In some cities these subsidiaries of the great corporation control the milk supply because they sell half or more than half of all the milk bought."

This startling assertion appeared in "Consumers' Guide," published by the consumers' council of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration at Washington, D. C.; the date is March 26, 1934. In May, two months later, the same magazine asserted that "while the farmers were going bust, some of the milk companies had made very large profits. Distributors' profits in St. Louis, Chicago, Boston, and Philadelphia averaged from 14 to 41 per cent on a net plant investment, during the five years ending with December, 1931, and in 1933 distributors in these same cities showed an average profit of 7 to 22 per cent." The control of this great food product is in the hands of four large milk distributors. These four are National Dairy Products Corporation, the Borden Company, the Beatrice Creamery Company, and the Fairmont Creamery Company.

The National Dairy Products Corporation is the most powerful of this group and is no doubt referred to by the Consumers' Guide. It operates "Kraft-Phenix" cheeses, "Clover-Leaf" butter, "Hydrox" chocolate wafers, and "Breyer," "Satin" and "Harding" ice creams.

Poor's Industrial Manual for 1934 lists these principal milk distributors as follows:

| Distributor               | Admitted Sub-sidiaries | Net Sales 1929 | Net Sales 1933 |
|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Nat'l Dairy Prod'ts Corp. | 108                    | \$300,000,000  | \$231,000,000  |
| Borden Co.                | 71                     | 328,000,000    | 186,000,000    |
| Beatrice Creamery Co.     | 46                     | 84,000,000     | 46,000,000     |
| Fairmont Creamery Co.     | 5                      | 48,000,000     | 29,000,000     |

It is known that salaries paid the officers of these dairy companies reach as high a figure as \$50,000 per year. Farmers are receiving from two to four cents per quart for their milk which is retailed to the consumer at from 10 to 15 cents per quart.

Frequently one of the four large holding companies in the milk industry controls practically every large and small milk distributing company serving a given locality, although the common

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**American citizens are beginning to ask questions about the milk monopoly! Does it exist, and how far does its control go?**

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ownership of the supposedly competing firms is seldom known to the customers. The holding companies are thus in a position to dictate to the public the prices at which they will sell their milk.

Among the 500 or more distributing subsidiaries of the National Dairy Products Corporation we find the following milk companies:

Sheffield Farms Co., Inc., New York, N. Y.

Edward E. Rieck Co., Inc., New York, N. Y.

Rieck-McJunkin Dairy Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.

Supplee-Wills-Jones Milk Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

Brighton Place Dairy Co., Rochester, N. Y.

Wisconsin Creameries, Milwaukee, Wis.

Akron Pure Milk Co., Akron, Ohio.

Youngstown Sanitary Milk Co., Youngstown, Ohio.

Detroit Creamery Co., Detroit, Mich.

St. Louis Dairy Co., St. Louis, Mo.

Highland Dairy Farms Co., St. Louis, Mo.

Chapman Dairy Co., Kansas City, Kans.

Nashville Pure Milk Co., Nashville, Tenn.

Fairfield Western Maryland Dairy, Baltimore, Md.

(Continued on page 136)



Milk May Not Be Necessary to Adults, But It Is a Necessary Part of Baby's Diet. That Is Why Americans Want to Know Who Controls the Milk Supply.

# Factory Made Houses Still Being Pushed

**H**ELLO! Dingadget Home Service Company?"

"Yes. What can we do for you?"

"I want somebody to fix the seams in my house walls."

"What model home have you?"

"I have an Empyrical Six, 1945."

"Sorry, we only service the Utopian House and Modernomes. Why don't you try your Empyrical Home Service?"

"The closest service station is at Baltimore."

"Well, very sorry, but there's nothing we can do for you. We can't service your home because our mechanics aren't familiar with it and we don't carry the parts for it anyway. Goodbye."

\* \* \*

Sure, this is funny. But so were the first automobiles. Attempts to put pre-fabricated houses on the market are so persistent that it raises a serious question for the skilled building trades, particularly as promotion of this type of house is almost invariably coupled with slander, innuendo or complaint against the building crafts. And it is at least possible that one of these outfits that are now experimenting with pre-fabricated panels of copper, steel, composition, reinforced concrete, and so forth, may work out a product that can be sold in quantities to a public which has been trained from infancy to believe what it reads in the papers.

The first pre-fabricated house to be built in Washington, D. C., was open for showing the other day. This has outer walls of pre-cast reinforced concrete with brilliant mosaic designs an integral part of the walls. After the outer wall panels are set up, which the promoters claim can be done in one day, the interior of the house is finished in the usual manner, with wiring, plumbing, heating, plaster, etc., installed on the job. The price quoted on this building is considerably more than a house of the same dimensions built in brick or stone, but by eliminating the ornamental designs, and with mass production of a great number of pre-fabricated units, it might be lowered to a point where it would attract home buyers. The Earley Process Corporation, which makes the panels, intends to erect several houses of different styles in and around Washington, as a demonstration.

A salesman for a new type of steel house called on Washington contractors recently. While he had no product ready for delivery as yet, he showed plans, sketches and made contacts for the sale of this building through local contractors. It is rumored that a demonstration house with outer walls covered with copper is to be erected here soon.

## Greater Profits Hoped For

Most of the pre-fabricated types now being groomed for the market consist mainly of outer wall panels and roof panels, eliminating the work of the car-

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**Steel boxes appear to have lost out in the running, but other types appear, one of asbestos composition. Hope that poor mortals will soon bite. Huge profits visioned in mass production. Campaign against skilled labor.**

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penter, stonemason and bricklayer particularly. The insulation, plumbing, heating, wiring, plaster, trim and other interior finish is installed on the job, usually. But the promoters will tell you plainly that their object is to eliminate as much labor, particularly skilled labor, as possible; to produce in the factory as much as possible instead of on the job. This is not only because they see the opportunity for a greater profit on the machine-made product, but also because they can keep their factory labor more tightly in check than skilled trades, particularly union trades, on the job. Their ideal home will be produced in the factory complete, shipped in a box car, and assembled in a few hours by an erecting crew sent out by the building corporation. The intention is to put local building labor, and eventually, local contractors, out of the residential building business entirely, when the consumer may have to choose his home from the catalogues of a dozen large corporations.

The past 20 years have shown a gradual technological change in the process of building, transferring an ever larger proportion of it from the job site to the factory. This has not been done with the object of improving the product but rather of cheapening it and garnering in the greater profit that lies in the machine-made article. Man-hours of work have been eaten up by machines, wages of skilled labor have been eliminated in many items of construction, and at the same time, part of the skill which was the prized possession of some crafts has been rendered useless. This has been only a part of the process of technical advance with its resulting technological

unemployment that has taken place in almost every line of work.

Not every type of pre-fabricated dwelling at present being ballyhooed will be successful; many of them will not even go into production. Two or three years ago a steel house was heralded with a great flourish of publicity; a model was set up at the Century of Progress at Chicago, but it failed to take on with the public except as an exhibit.

There are a good many obstacles to rapid and far-reaching changes in the method of residential building. A good deal of money will be spent in advertising, publicity, lobbying, palm-greasing and exhibit houses before the public is "educated" and other barriers are removed. Who is putting up the money? Construction financing agencies, particularly building and loans, are notoriously conservative about the types of structures they will finance. Nevertheless, huge sums of money are being invested in a product of an experimental nature that will not be profitable until and if it goes into mass production.

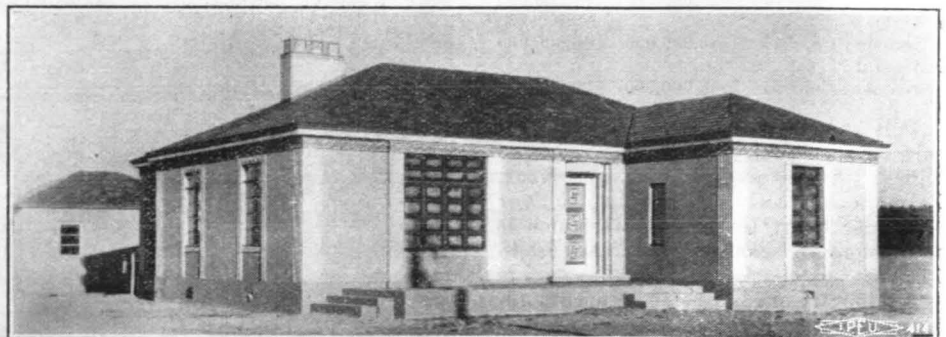
## Now of Asbestos Composition

One corporation with quite an ambitious program, which is now erecting pre-fabricated houses in Westchester County, appears to be backed by a group of building materials manufacturers. In these houses the wall units are made of asbestos composition joined with aluminum "pylons" and erected on a steel framework. It is said that the corporation intends to furnish financing as well as erection of the houses, and that the first group have been "sold" to "prominent people," which probably means, given away for advertising purposes.

Pre-fabrication on a mass-production basis will necessitate a deadly monotony of style. The so-called "modern," boxy, flat-roofed type is being played up because this is the cheapest for factory production. But it is this monotony which may cause many prospective customers to shy away. The average man does not want a house exactly like his neighbor any more than his wife wants to duplicate her neighbor's wardrobe.

It is the experience of architects and

(Continued on page 136)



The First Pre-Fabricated House Erected in Washington, D. C., Built of Pre-Cast Reinforced Mosaic Concrete. Walls Consist of Panels Two Inches Thick, Approximately Nine Feet High, From Four to 10 Feet Wide, Erected on a Skeleton of Studding.



# L. E. Mayer Honored for Industry Service

**L.** E. MAYER, president of the National Electrical Contractors Association, has been awarded the James H. McGraw Award for distinguished service in the electrical contracting field. The presentation was made at a banquet held in Chicago, February 13. Honor was paid Mr. Mayer by J. A. Fowler, past president of the contractors association; Quinn O'Brien, corporation counsel of Chicago, representing the city's mayor; D. W. Tracy, president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and administration member of the code authority of the Electrical Contractors Division; W. A. Jackson, commissioner of gas and electricity of Chicago; F. R. Eiseman, chairman of the executive committee, National Electrical Wholesalers Association; Howard Ehrlich, personal representative of Mr. McGraw; and Keith Carlin, regional attorney, National Recovery Administration.

Mr. Tracy said:

"The construction industry is so important, so basic and so complex that its processes have often been likened unto an army campaign. There is the same careful organization. There is the same appropriation of man-power. There are privates and sergeants and captains and generals—a general staff. There is the intelligence section and the engineering force. Those of us who have been engaged in this campaign know something of its rigors and hardships, how the energies of a great force must be knit up and thrown as one unit against the job. We who have been engaged in building also know something of the comradeship, the inspiration, the thrill, the sense of magnitude of the great enterprise. Finally, we come to know that no building job can be successfully brought to a finish without real co-operation among all the complex and varied forces involved.

"Rivet-guns thundering in an iron-chested roar;  
Punching white-hot clinchers on the forty-seventh floor;  
Cable-hoists and air lines are stitching boiler plate;  
Someone wants a fifty-decker—and they want it while they wait.

"Tonight, on this pleasant occasion I wish to direct my mind and your mind to the idea of comradeship and co-operation in this field. In an industry where the controversies are the most bitter, it can be said that the spirit of co-operation is best. It is a matter of deep satisfaction that for 15 years the workers in the electrical construction industry and the employers have consciously built upon a ra-

**Given the James H. McGraw Award, he is feted in Chicago by representatives of labor and management. President Tracy speaks.**

tional basis of co-operation. We have wrested a lesson from the team-play on the job. We have built on the engineering spirit. We have set up sane industrial relations as between the workers—



HONORED—L. E. MAYER

the privates of the army—and the executives—the officers of the army. We have seen the zone of conflict narrow to smaller dimensions each year.

"L. E. Mayer, president of the National Electrical Contractors Association, whom we all have met to honor tonight, has played an intelligent part for many years in this task of co-operation, and when the transition was made from an uncoded to codified industry, Mr. Mayer by the part he played conserved these principles of co-operation and aided materially in carrying them over into the new era. This industrial statesmanship deserves recognition and we are pleased to see the sponsors of the James H. McGraw Award recognize this contractor in this way.

"We believe that recognition of Mr. Mayer is also recognition of the spirit of

co-operation in the industry and behind that spirit of co-operation a rational structure of industrial relations which has been built over a period of 15 years. We understand that there are forces in these United States which would be quite willing to see co-operation in industry destroyed. We are not among those backward-looking persons. We declare that it is an insane attitude to take when you realize that no towering skyscraper, no hydro-electric dam, no subway, no dwelling can be built without esprit de corps. The most constructive and intelligent answer to Fascism and Communism in this country is real guildism—the earnest, rational, intelligent co-operation of management and labor."

## James H. McGraw Award Citation

Leo E. Mayer, president of the White City Electric Company of Chicago, was president of the National Electrical Contractors Association when at the beginning of the depression building ceased in the United States and the business of electrical construction dwindled to virtually nothing. For six years he has continued at the head of this organization in active personal leadership through a protracted period of unparalleled difficulties due to the economic prostration of the electrical contractor.

Meanwhile the National Industrial Recovery Act placed upon him the responsibility for the development of a code of fair competition for the electrical construction industry and a workable basis for self government within that trade, whereby the many thousands of small and large contractors throughout the country might be organized in a practical co-operation. It involved the nationalization of a craft composed in large part of individuals, whose activities in the past have been purely local with little recognition of broad industry interests or obligations, as well as a definition of the scope of operations that properly belong in the field of electrical construction.

By reason of his tireless and persistent energy throughout the long drawn process of code planning and negotiation, there evolved a code that strikes at the root of the most baffling problems of the electrical contracting business and by his patience and tolerance towards the opinions of others and his unswerving devotion to the interests of the contractor, despite the serious personal sacrifice involved, he aroused the hope and inspired the loyalty of a wavering membership and marshalled a conscious national industry within his association. With this united following he has launched a program of national and local self govern-

(Continued on page 135)

# Panama Canal vs. Chamber of Commerce

By NEWSHAWK

OUR attention is called to a scheme, outrageous in its design, proposed by the Chamber of Commerce of the city of Panama, Republic of Panama, for the exploitation of thousands of civilian citizens employed by the United States Government in the Panama Canal Zone, and the thousands of enlisted men and officers of the United States Army and Navy stationed there for war defense purposes. This includes the hundreds, if not thousands, of American wives and children of these citizens.

The president of this body of Panamanian and alien merchants is Senor Tomas H. Jacome, a Panamanian, who published the proposal in the Panamanian newspaper, "La Estrella de Panama," July 12, 1934. Another Panamanian, Senor J. M. Berrocal, forwarded copies of this exploitation proposal to 37 manufacturing concerns in the United States imploring them to "do everything possible" by exercising their influence with "Congressmen, Senators, chambers of commerce, Department of Commerce, and the special adviser to the President on foreign trade." Returns from these concerns indicate that they are complying with the request of the Panamanian Chamber of Commerce to the detriment of their own fellow citizens. The thousands of United States citizens in the Canal Zone are there to operate and defend the Canal, and not to contribute through taxation to the upkeep of a foreign nation to whom they are under no personal obligations whatsoever.

## Involves Defense

As you all know, the Panama Canal is a military and naval defense project of superior importance to the integrity and welfare of the United States as a nation. It was designed for the transferring of our battle fleets in time of war, between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans in one single day's time instead of the 25 or more days necessary to travel the 8,000 or more miles around the entire continent of South America. The several thousands of civilian employees in the Canal Zone are recruited from all the states of the Union, and are highly skilled and trained in their respective trades and callings. Their patriotic fidelity is perfect, being each and every one hand-picked by the War Department under whose jurisdiction the Canal Zone operates. The War Department realizes the menace from the exploitation proposal of Senor Jacome and will do all in its power to overcome the gullible attitude of the United States chambers of commerce.

The proposition of Senor Jacome and Senor Berrocal calls for the agreeing by the Panamanian Republic to a reduction in customs duties ranging from 22 to 86 per cent on United States products, in exchange for a contribution to its treasury of a tax of 4 per cent on all purchases in Panama Canal commis-

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**Proposal would tax American citizens. Bears upon labor's fight for all-American working force in Zone.**

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saries, army post exchanges, and navy ship's service stores, of food, clothing, and other necessities of life and happiness made by the thousands of civilian employees, soldiers, and sailors of your government. Can you beat that for a challenge to the good neighborliness statement of the United States political administration?

## Tariff at Stake

Now get this wonderful and magnanimous proposal straight in your mind so that there will be no misunderstanding. The proposal presented by these Panamanian merchantmen is that the United States citizens engaged in the defense and operation of your Panama Canal contribute personally as individuals to the treasury of the Republic of Panama gratis, a sum of money from their private income equal to 4 per cent in addition to their actual cost of living in a part of the United States as integral as any state or territory, or other possession. This forced contribution is designed to permit the Panamanian Republic to reduce its import duties from 22 to 86 per cent so that their merchants can undersell the United States stores that now permit the Canal employees to live economically. If this proposal should be made effective, these Panamanian, European and Asiatic merchants would imme-

diately, after the commissaries were placed hors de combat, raise their selling prices higher than they were in the commissaries and instead of our dollars going to our own country, they would be sent to the respective countries of the merchants.

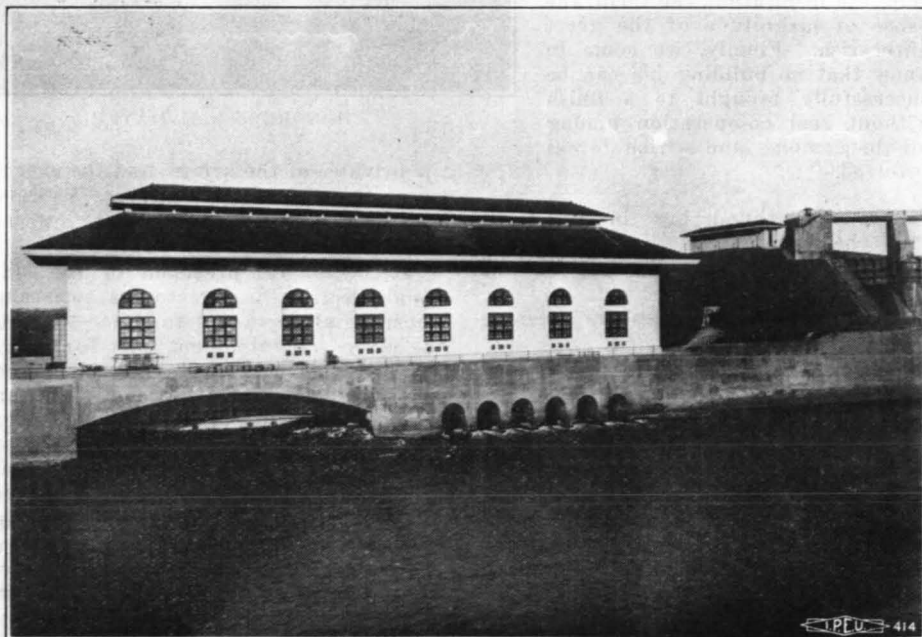
This outrageous proposal may not come to pass, but it clearly indicates why organized labor in the Canal Zone is appealing to its states brothers to assist the Panama Canal Metal Trades Council with the bill to be presented in this Congress, making compulsory the employing of United States citizens *only* in the Canal Zone. The more citizens, the stronger our influence.

## The Panama Canal

As a commercial investment, as an investment in national defense, and as an investment in national prestige, the Panama Canal is a success fully commensurate with its magnitude as an engineering project. The amount of money expended in its construction was a little more than \$385,000,000, and of this about \$110,000,000 is chargeable to the national defense, leaving approximately \$275,000,000 invested for commercial purposes. This latter sum, however, includes \$28,000,000 spent in auxiliary business enterprises.

Up to and including the year 1922 the largest amount collected for tolls in any one month was \$1,312,570.12 for December, 1922. The total collection for tolls during 1922 was \$11,477,312.91, when 2,736 vessels registering 10,844,910 tons transited the Canal. During the year 1923 the number of ships passing through the Canal showed a large increase with corresponding increase in

(Continued on page 134)



POWER HOUSE IN THE CANAL ZONE



# Labor-fighting Ship Firms on Grill

LABOR has repeatedly laid down the axiom, namely, that business corporations that are unfair to workers are unfair to the public. This is dramatically revealed by what is going on in the shipbuilding industry as revealed by the investigation of a special committee of the U. S. Senate. Ever since the enactment of the NIRA, when the shipbuilding interests were brought under a code, these interests have been playing hide and seek with union representatives seeking to avoid obligations imposed by Section 7 (a), Section 7 (b) and Section 7 (c), and have by hook and crook sought to advance company unions in that field.

The Senate investigation has taken on nationwide and dramatic interest because one of the leading members of the shipping industry, namely, Clinton L. Bardo, former president of the New York Shipbuilding Corporation, is now president of the National Manufacturers Association, the lobbying group of American business interests. The investigation has been forced to follow a devious course. It has not yet been completed, but enough has been uncovered to reveal the fact that the shipping industry has been permitted to use the U. S. Navy Department and official agencies of the government to advance their interests.

A graphic instance of this entente cordiale between the U. S. Navy Department and mercenary shipping interests was revealed by this incident. Hugh Gibson, American Ambassador to Brazil, was virtually ordered by a representative of a shipbuilding firm to request battleships on southern waters in order that the Brazilian government might see the type of cruiser that these mercenary shipping interests were manufacturing and seeking to sell. On March 12, 1934, Mr. Gibson cabled the Secretary of State:

"Received a call from Mr. Robert Aitken Workman, the New York Shipbuilding Company vice president. He asked that I wire immediately recommending scout cruiser be sent to Rio for the 'moral effect' while the Brazilian government was considering bids for naval construction.

"His manner was rather truculent and he took me to task for not being here when he wanted to see me.

"He pointed out the fact that there were two British cruisers in the harbor and referred caustically to the fact that the British knew how to take care of their interests.

"The cruisers were there on a regular schedule—arranged some time ago—a fact which I pointed out to him. In spite of this he said that he would take the matter up with the Navy through his own channels—to have a cruiser available for detached service sent to Rio.

"I feel that no cruiser should be sent because of the effect its sudden appearance would have. I question the value of such a visit in view of the present un-

## Investigation of international munitions trust has led Senate committee to uncover too-friendly relations between Navy and private interests.

settled political situation, without some valid reason."

Secretary Hull concurred in the views supplied by Ambassador Gibson but this apparently did not slow up the plans of the company, for on August 14, 1934, Admiral Standley, chief of naval operations, informed the company that the aircraft carrier Ranger would visit Brazilian waters on this traveling salesman tour and that later the cruiser Tuscaloosa, built by the shipping firm, would appear in the Rio Harbor.

### Labor Unveils Set-Up

American labor played an important part in these investigations. William Calvin, secretary-treasurer of the metal trades department of the American Federation of Labor, appeared before the committee and presented evidence that a Washington lawyer acted as a "fixer" as between the government agencies that let naval contracts and private shipbuilding firms. Mr. Calvin declared that for a fee of \$250,000 this Washington lawyer said that he could deliver a contract worth \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000. Mr. Calvin filed the following memorandum with the committee:

"On August 3, 1933, in response to an invitation from Mr. L. R. Wilder, chairman of the executive board of Gulf Industries of Pensacola, Fla., I visited Mr. Wilder in his suite in the Washington Hotel, Washington, D. C.

"Mr. Wilder informed me that on the previous day, August 2, he had been approached by a Mr. Gravem, who pro-

fessed to be a close friend of an influential citizen of Washington, D. C., who could have the navy shipbuilding program extended for a consideration, and have certain ships awarded to the Gulf Industries for construction. As soon as Mr. Wilder learned of Mr. Gravem's intention, he requested him to return on the following day in order that I might hear this proposal.

"Mr. Wilder had submitted bids for three destroyers, but his bid, although lower, was not favorably considered, and the destroyers for which he submitted his bid were awarded to a competitive firm which had submitted a higher bid.

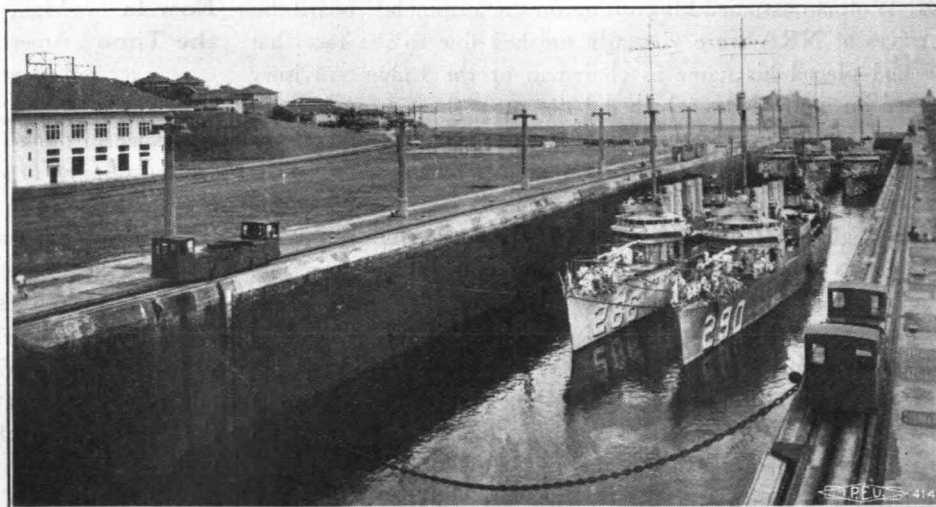
"Mr. Gravem stated that Mr. Wilder would have to do business through his friend, whom he referred to as 'the Fixer,' in order to obtain any naval building contracts. Mr. Gravem further stated that his friend, 'the Fixer,' was the most influential civilian in Washington, and that he had drafted the shipbuilders' and ship repairers' code and prepared all bids for the shipbuilders for naval vessels allocated under the NIRA.

"He stated that his friend, 'the Fixer,' was disappointed because he had not made more money out of the awards for new naval vessels, and that if Mr. Wilder would give him the sum of \$250,000 that he could obtain \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 worth of naval construction for the Gulf Industries, providing the yard was capable of producing same.

"Mr. Wilder replied that if it became known that there was collusive bidding for naval construction that a Senate investigation might be ordered, to which Mr. Gravem replied that the keels would be laid for all vessels before a Senate investigation could start, which would, in his opinion, obviate the possibility of revocation of contracts by the Navy Department.

"Mr. Gravem stated further that his friend, 'the Fixer,' knew two weeks in advance of every Navy announcement, to

(Continued on page 136)



DESTROYERS "MARCHING" THROUGH THE GREAT CANAL.

# JOURNAL OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

Official Publication International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Devoted  
to the  
Cause



of  
Organized  
Labor

Volume XXXIV Washington, D. C., March, 1935 No. 3

**"The A. F. of L. Missed the Boat"** This title is taken from an editorial from "Business Week," once liberal business magazine. It is similar in tone to those in Raymond Moley's "Today," other business magazines, and the conservative newspapers, and is characterized by glee at the so-called defeat of the American Federation of Labor in the automobile industry. Apart from antic glee the editorial is characterized by the assertion that Washington, the government and industry are disappointed at the failure of the American Federation of Labor to measure up. Unions have missed a great opportunity under the enabling features of NIRA through lack of vision, laziness or sheer waywardness. So the unions, having missed the boat, are deserving of no further consideration and the United States should pass on to something else.

No flimsier fiction for publicity purposes was ever invented. It is a colossal hoax played at the expense of the entire nation. The truth is the organization opportunity under NIRA amounted to exactly nothing.

What happened in the automobile industry is not extreme but typical of trends under NRA. The code, in the first place, is not the result of collective bargaining, but was promulgated by NRA deputies friendly to the automobile makers. It contained a merit clause that virtually undercut Section 7 (a). It resulted in a board. At the head of the board was placed Dr. Leo Wolman, who is now spoken of enthusiastically by tory newspapers as an intelligent labor leader. When Dr. Wolman assumed his position on the automobile board, his services at NRA were virtually finished due to the fact that he had placed his name as chairman of the Labor Advisory Board on many codes which did not meet the approval of his board. Dr. Wolman had suffered a conversion to the company union idea of labor organization in his official capacity as chairman. He went to Detroit with his board and became solely a good personnel director for the automobile industry. Under his leadership unions could not and did not function. The election which was held recently under his direction, the results of which received wide publicity in the newspapers, was utterly an unfair election. The men were forced to vote in the shops and not at separate polling places away from the plants. They were given ballots that had the names of no organizations upon them but merely names of persons whom they did not know. Naturally the vote did not reveal the union strength in the industry.

It is against conditions like this that have been artificially erected against unionization that A. F. of L. unions have been forced to fight. There has been appearance of fairness but not actual fairness and the kept press has refused to enlighten any one as to the real conditions, so when the "Business Week" speaks of the A. F. of L. missing the boat, it is putting the boat before the wharf. The boat missed the A. F. of L. It never arrived. In its place a nice new liner of the Fascistic type has been drawn up alongside the dock and is waiting for the American workmen to embark upon an autocratic regime.

**President's Bad Adviser** Whoever is advising the President in his relation to American labor should resign and go back to the writing of bombastic editorials or to the counting room. Whether the President knows it or not, his assumed obedience to this bad advice has lowered him many degrees in the esteem of the American people. The Journal of Commerce, Wall Street publication, says: "During the famous Moley dinners of the business leaders a list was prepared of some 40 New Deal advisers considered particularly objectionable to business. The understanding was that the positions held by these men would be filled with advisers of recognized standing."

Again, Steel, spokesman for the steel industry, declares:

"More than is probably known, he, the President, has given assurances to business, short of shouting it to the housetops—which would only alienate much mildly radical support he so badly needs—he has certified business that he will stand between it and extreme left wing proposals."

Mr. Roosevelt campaigned on a program essentially comprising unemployment relief, redistribution of wealth and social economic planning. The American people voted for that platform. That platform was not changed by any announcement from the President in the 1934 congressional elections. It is to be supposed that the American people ratified again that platform. If Mr. Roosevelt is still not standing for these important reform measures, he should at once announce the fact to the American people.

**Now Is the Time** Make no mistake about it. The fibre of the American people is going to be tested in the next few years in a way that it has never been tested before. All of us are going to know whether there is any substance in our so-called democratic institutions, or whether we are a nation of sissies. The crisis which is upon this nation is a challenge to manhood fundamentally and essentially, and if Americans are men they will escape the obnoxious Fascistic systems which other nations have allowed to be imposed upon them. The business interests of the United States have virtually served notice upon this country that they do not intend to submit to any kind of reform, however mild. They have taken the law creating the Tennessee Valley Authority into the courts in an effort to cripple that project. They have undercut the labor provisions of the National Industrial Recovery Act in such wise that they essentially do not function. They are bringing their guns to play in a counter-attack upon



all fundamental American liberties. They have a trades disputes bill before Congress that looks toward compulsory arbitration. They are introducing sedition acts in state legislatures presumably directed toward radical activities but that would cripple any kind of labor activity whatsoever. They have spread company unionism over great areas of the industrial map and are now striving to legalize the company union as the bona fide instrument of collective bargaining. All of these aims can be met and turned back if Americans will have the courage of their convictions and will stand up for their rights. But they will have to stand up as men and not as sisters of an inferior race.

**Counter-Point** While a sniveling, servile and mercenary press was wailing that the Senate vote for the prevailing wage was mulcting the government in behalf of a class, the same press was scattering propaganda for special subsidies to the aviation industry. The same press was in one section of its columns declaring that the automobile decision by the President meant the disintegration of the American Federation of Labor, and in another section it was declaring that the vote in the Senate was engineered by the powerful A. F. of L. The same press was giving colorless reports of the trial of Andy Mellon on serious tax dodging charges but was playing up prominently and colorfully the supposed gift of a \$50,000,000 art gallery to the City of Washington. The art gallery is a sacred horse that is trotted out every time Uncle Andy gets into difficulties. It has not yet materialized.

**Judge Nields' Decision** Consider for a moment the decision of Judge Nields on the constitutionality of Section 7 (a). Judge Nields refuses to believe that any clause of the constitution, especially those that involve human rights, can and do apply to the relationships of employees to their employers. Quite wilfully and with no authority he eliminates from his purview all the sections of the constitution including its preamble which may well apply to employee relationships. He bases his decision solely upon the question as to whether the steel company is involved in interstate commerce. He hides at once behind a legal fiction when he says that the National Steel Corporation, that is, the parent company, is not the defendant in the suit. The Weirton Steel Company, the local company, is the sole defendant. It is true that the National Steel Company has plants in more than one state but the learned judge gets around this dilemma by simply stating that the case is brought merely against the Weirton Steel Company. By such reasoning one can prove anything in this world that one cares to prove. It is setting up a picture puzzle that has nothing to do with social principles, human motives, human needs, facts and the great emotions of life, or the great interests of life which are more important than all the legalities in the world.

If the steel company is not engaged in interstate commerce, it would have to produce its goods solely in Weirton and sell them solely in the state of West Virginia. This, of course, it does not do. It gets its raw materials from various sections

of the country, fabricates them into a product, ships this product all over the United States. To state that it is not engaged in interstate commerce is to create just another legal fiction. It brings the law and the courts into contempt.

**Two Judges Vote** The solemn farce which has been enacted in this country for years is once again being unfolded. We refer to the practice of submitting laws acceptable to the majority of the people passed by a majority of the people's representatives in Congress to ancient jurists to test their constitutionality. We need not go into the questionable origin of this practice. It is enough to note that 72-year-old Judge W. Irwin Grubb of the Northern Alabama District has found that it is unconstitutional for the Tennessee Valley Authority to sell power. We also note that Judge John P. Nields, age 67, a good Republican and a captain in the army, has found Section 7 (a) of the National Recovery Act unconstitutional.

The fact is that all that Judge Grubb and Judge Nields actually have done is to vote against the New Deal, and according to our silly system their two votes cast, quite prayerfully, outweighs the vote of 40,000,000 American citizens and the considered deliberations of the U. S. Congress.

**Machine Problem Again** Besides exposing the abject conditions of workers in the automobile industry, victimized by labor spies and irascible bosses, the report of the research and planning division of the NRA carried material of deep import to every American citizen. This report indicates that the encroachment of machine power upon man power is proceeding at a heady pace in this fundamental industry. Automatic machinery is displacing men so rapidly and at such tempo that it may well be that the industry will get along with only a few thousand men. Here are some of the comparisons: in 1930 250 men finished 100 motor blocks in a given time; now 19 men finish  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times the number of motor blocks in the same time. A new photo-electric inspecting machine, almost human, does away with 10 to 20 human inspectors. In 1929 the labor cost of one automobile door of one manufacturer was \$4; in 1935, 15c. The body frame has dropped in labor costs from \$3 to 30c; hand finishing from \$3 to 20c; trimming from \$12 to \$4. An automatic buffer has been invented and installed in some plants capable of displacing 150 men. Six years ago wheeling machines were operated by 18 men; today new wheeling machines are operated by three men.

We have repeatedly pointed out in this JOURNAL that the major problem of industry, and we believe of this depression, is the rapid, hit-and-miss introduction of man-displacing machinery at the will of profit taking employers. Some manufacturers of automatic machines are now selling them on a self-liquidating basis. They tell customers if the machine will not pay for itself in six months it may be returned. The depression has not slowed up the new technology. It has only stupefied politicians and industrialists to that extent that they utterly ignore the problem.



# WOMAN'S WORK



## YOUR WEIGHT IS DUE TO YOUR EATING HABITS

By SALLY LUNN

"I DO wish I could lose 20 pounds. But everything I eat seems to turn to fat." She was a plump, peevish woman. As she sat at the bridge table complaining that she simply could not lose, no matter how she dieted, her fingers unconsciously strayed again, and again, to the dish of salted nuts. "I simply can't resist them," she sighed, "but just a few won't make any difference."

So many women worry about their weight, and talk about it, and never do anything about it. Others have a system of indulgence most of the time, with occasional periods of rigid dieting in which they use the most strenuous methods of quick weight reduction with considerable danger to their health and nervous systems.

Of course the "fatties" are not the only ones whose weight is a matter for concern, but the "skinnies" do not seem to be troubled with the vulnerable vanity of their stout sisters. Reducing, it is said, is the triumph of vanity over gluttony, and what a struggle it is!

### What is Your Ideal Weight?

You probably have a good idea of what your weight ought to be, for your age, height and body structure. Doctors have prepared tables showing ideal average weights for men and women of different ages and heights and you may consult these if you have no idea what you ought to weigh. If you can afford to, it is well to consult a doctor and have him take a basic metabolism test and prescribe a diet. Sometimes incorrect weight really is due to glands that are not functioning properly, and in such a case, to go on a stringent diet is further punishment for a body which is already "out of kilter."

Oh, yes, of course it is true that two women might eat exactly the same diet and one would gain and the other would not, and both be perfectly normal, but this only means that one is burning up more energy than the other. One is an energetic, active individual, the other is lazy and slow; or one is engaged in moderate muscular work, while the other has a sedentary occupation and does not get much exercise. Finding the proper diet that will bring you up or down to your ideal weight involves quite an exact measurement of the amount of food you need to supply energy for your day's work. If your object is to reduce, you must cut this down just slightly so that there is a gradual absorption of the

body of its own surplus fatty tissues to be translated into energy. The body literally eats itself up and you must take care that in this form of cannibalism you nibble and do not take big bites.

### What Are Calories?

The measurement of heat elements in foods is called the calorie. These are what produce energy. But whatever is left over from the body's energy requirements is stored up as fat. It is surprising what a difference there is in calorie content between different kinds of foods, for example, between a pound of butter and a pound of spinach. Sweets, starches and fats abound in calories; fresh fruit, most vegetables, lean meat, fish, and skim milk are low in calorie content and should be eaten freely by the person who is trying to reduce. It is not wise to cut out starches, sugars and fats entirely. The person who wishes to achieve and keep her ideal weight should not aim to take off the pounds too rapidly, but rather to form the correct habits of eating so as to adjust her normal daily diet to her food requirements.

It is possible to discipline your body and mind so that you will not crave fattening foods; so that you can look at a chocolate éclair with complete indifference; spread your butter thin because you prefer it that way, and reject fat meat with a shudder. Yes, it's difficult at first to eat an apple or a raw carrot stick when others are eating candy and nuts, but if you keep on with it long enough you can so educate yourself that you will not want rich foods. Many people are thin because they really don't care for starchy, sweet or fat foods. They cannot gain weight because they cannot bear to increase their intake of these foods.

There is also the problem of hunger. If you have habitually been eating heavy meals, crowding your stomach to its capacity, your stomach will obligingly have expanded itself and if you reduce the size of your meal it will not fill your stomach and you will feel hungry, restless and uncomfortable. The very thin person, on the other hand, frequently has a shrunken stomach and cannot eat a large meal without discomfort.

### Don't Go Hungry

Even in reducing it is not necessary to suffer from excessive hunger. The woman who keeps house and can plan the meals has a great advantage because she can see that there is a large variety and

quantity of the foods on her diet list and there are many of them of which you can eat your fill without adding up too many calories. For between-meal hunger there is raw fruit or raw vegetables, or a glass of milk sipped slowly, or even a glass of hot water, that warms and fills the stomach and relieves the emptiness.

Here is a diet prescribed by a doctor for a patient who was advised to lose 20 pounds and at the same time so adjust her dietary habits that she would be able to maintain the correct weight when she arrived at it:

**Soups**—Clear soups of any kind (consomme, bouillon) without rice, noodles or dumplings.

**Meats**—All kinds of lean meat (no fat), chicken and turkey; one slice of crisp bacon; clams, crabs, lobster, frog legs, salt cod-fish, lake trout, whitefish, salmon (fresh), halibut. Not more than two eggs daily.

**Vegetables**—Asparagus, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, cucumbers, egg plant, endive, green peppers, spinach, lettuce, okra, mushrooms, radishes, rhubarb, sauerkraut, wax beans, string beans, swiss chard, tomatoes, water cress, mustard greens, turnip tops, broccoli, kale.

**Salads**—Freely of any of the above vegetables, singly or in combination, with mineral oil dressing.

**Fruits** (all fresh)—Blackberries, cranberries, one-half grape fruit, lemons, muskmelon, melons, one-half orange, peach, pineapple, one apple, raspberries, strawberries. This is the only group of foods which must definitely be limited to one tablespoonful at a serving. No sugar or cream may be used. They may be combined with cooked gelatine to form satisfactory desserts. At breakfast, tomato juice or sauerkraut juice may be used in place of one of these fruits.

**Beverages**—Water, tea, coffee, skimmed milk. No more than one level teaspoonful of sugar is to be used. Liquids must be limited to six glasses daily. This includes not only water but soups, and beverages.

One thin slice of bread with a little butter may be had with each meal.

*It must be distinctly understood that any food not included in the foregoing list must not be eaten.* No fried food is to be eaten. No creamed sauces or gravies are allowed. Vegetables are not to be seasoned with butter or cooked with fat meat.

(Continued on page 137)

## Women's Auxiliary

### WOMEN'S AUXILIARY L. U. NO. 83, LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

Dear Editor:

Local No. 83 Auxiliary has not forgotten that we have a space allotted to us in the JOURNAL, but we have been on a rather long vacation due to circumstances over which we had no control. I cannot believe that we have been missed, however, because the letters published from the various auxiliaries have certainly been very interesting, especially the articles written by "A Worker's Wife."

Many interesting events have taken place since our first business meeting in November. We have been trying to make up for lost time, so we started out with our election of officers. Our new officers are: President, Mrs. Jewell Mathis; vice president, Mrs. L. A. Barnes; recording secretary, Mrs. Myrtle Forington; financial secretary, Mrs. Gertrude Underwood; and Mrs. Holderman is captain of our young people's division.

On November 11, our first social meeting was in honor of our retiring president, Mrs. Ralph Bennett.

Mrs. Bennett has been a member of our auxiliary for about nine years. It was because of her faith and courage that we were able to keep going during these trying times, and when we think of her retiring for good, it is with saddened hearts. We wonder if we shall be as loyal and as faithful to the cause as she.

The auxiliary presented Mrs. Bennett with a beautiful bouquet of yellow chrysanthemums and a beautiful white table lamp. Mrs. Gertrude Underwood made the presentation.

I must tell you about our third annual Christmas party. Each year they seem to be bigger and better. The evening's activities consisted of a lovely program and a Christmas tree with a real Santa. Santa carried a bag chuck full of toys and goodies for the kiddies. Santa Claus, like our parties, gets bigger and better each year. Our Santa, sh!—was—Mr. Ben Richards, a new member of our local. And did the kids have fun? Ask "Flea" McDonald.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking the young people for decorating the hall, also Mrs. Lee Markett and Mrs. G. Underwood for the purchasing of toys.

The executive board was kind and considerate as usual when we need them most.

Mr. F. McDonald gave a very nice talk on behalf of the auxiliary. Let us hope that his talk brings us some new members.

We are beginning a new year and we hereby extend to the wives of every member of Local No. 83 to meet with us and join our auxiliary. Your membership and attendance tell your husband or son louder than words of your interest in his welfare. Let us make our auxiliary the finest we have had.

MRS. JEWELL MATHIS,  
President.

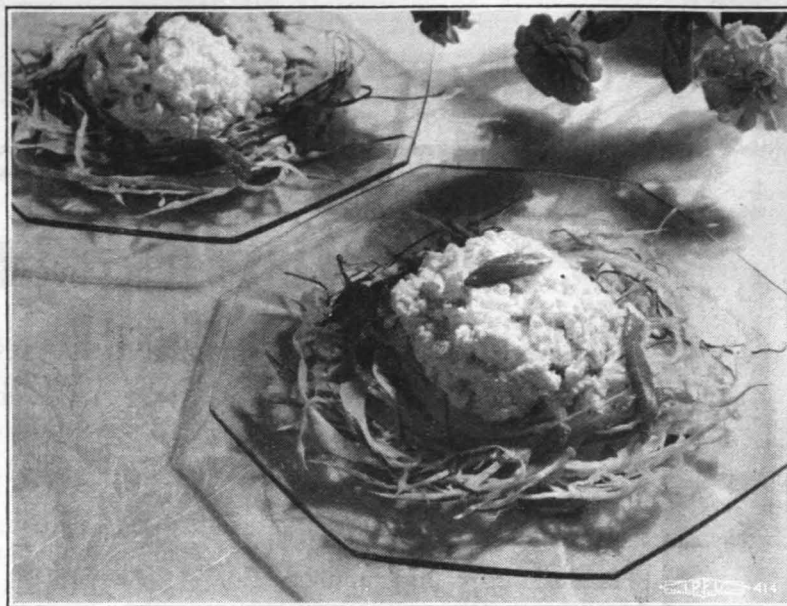
### WOMEN'S AUXILIARY L. U. NOS. 84, 613 AND 632, ATLANTA, GA.

Editor:

The last meeting in December of the women's auxiliary to electrical workers was in the form of a spend-the-day party at the home of the writer.

The entertainment chairman, Mrs. Charles Wright, provided a number of amusing contests. Christmas carols were sung by the auxiliary, with Mrs. Allen Fant at the piano. Everyone seemed to enjoy the day. After lunch a short business session was held.

New officers were elected as follows: Mrs.



Courtesy U. S. Bureau of Home Economics.

## Put Winter Salads in Your Menu!

By SALLY LUNN

Shredded cabbage, shredded lettuce, cottage cheese and strips of bright red pimento make the attractive salad pictured here. Even though you cannot afford the fancy fresh vegetables, there are always some raw vegetables on the market that you can obtain and use in salad form for good health as well as for variety in the winter menu. Let cabbage and lettuce stand in cold water or in the refrigerator till thoroughly crisp; and the finer it

is shredded the more attractive and appetizing it will be.

Other winter salad vegetables are green peppers, grated raw turnips or carrots, sliced onions; and there are many cooked or canned vegetables that can be used, such as asparagus, pimento, string beans, limas, beets, peas, and tomato aspic made from canned tomato juice. Then there are dozens of other salads that can be made with combinations of canned fruits, cheese, eggs, and canned fish.

H. C. Taylor, president; Mrs. Roy Williams, first vice president; Mrs. George White, second vice president; Mrs. Allen Fant, secretary; Mrs. R. B. Fox, treasurer; Mrs. M. B. Stroud, chaplain; Mrs. D. Bignarde, warden.

At the January meeting the usual committees were appointed.

We are exceedingly fortunate in having so capable a set of officers. It is the undivided opinion of the organization that we will go forward and much good be accomplished under the guidance of our new president.

Mrs. Taylor is a lady of charming personality and has had much experience in various organizations. Mrs. Taylor's eligibility to our organization comes through her husband's membership in the Railroad Electrical Local No. 632.

Through the influence of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor we are hoping to increase our membership from families of union men of Local No. 632, also from Locals No. 84 and No. 613.

At the last meeting in December a change was made in our meeting dates. In the future there will be one meeting monthly, the first Tuesday in each month at 2:30 p. m.

The January number of the JOURNAL was up to their usual high standard of litera-

ture. Electrical workers are very fortunate in having such a splendid medium of exchange of ideas, so complete and reliable a source of information as is the JOURNAL.

Goody's "Conception of the Power Situation" was great! That is a lovely, and understanding smile on the mason's face. More power to his smile and his arm!

Some of the ignorant, snobbish women who are ashamed to be identified with auxiliaries to organized labor should read the article about Miss Josephine Roche's activities in Colorado labor circles. Look at her picture and see character and indelible determination stamped on her face. We can't all run coal mines or dictate wage scales, but each in our own small way can do our bit.

It is interesting to note "The President Vanishes" is being shown at a local theatre this week. This play must be interesting, judging from local notices and the cut in the JOURNAL.

The article by Dr. Ezekiel on "When Every Family has \$2,500 a Year," was fine and enlightening. We can think of many electrical workers' families as well as other families who would know exactly what to do with such an amount yearly.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Floyd

(Continued on page 133)



Resolution adopted by  
**Local Union No. 9**  
**International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers**  
 at a meeting held in Chicago, on Friday, February 8, 1935:

**W**hereas, it is the universal human experience that the joys of this life are not unmixed with sadness and sorrow, and  
 Whereas, Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, has seen fit to call to his eternal rest and reward our very good friend and brother:

**Irwin V. Knott**

Whereas, Brother Knott, who, since 1900, contributed greatly to the success of Grade Unionism throughout the United States and particularly in Chicago, he being a member of Local Union No. 9 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers since 1906, serving as Business Manager from June, 1914, to January 31, 1935, the date of his death.

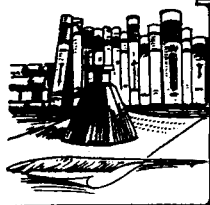
Whereas, because of his unvarying enthusiasm for the American principles of Grade Unionism, combined with an unswerving enthusiasm to see them successful, Brother Knott leaves behind him a record of service and accomplishment in the cause he loved, and in which he so truly believed, that remains a monument to his name and an inspiration for those to follow in his footsteps, and

Whereas, aside from the strictly professional services he rendered, Bosco Knott was possessed, in a markedly rare degree, of those admirable human traits and characteristics which tend to endear their possessor to their fellowmen. Big of heart, friendly and sympathetic of nature, he found innumerable occasions for private benefactions to those less fortunate than himself, and

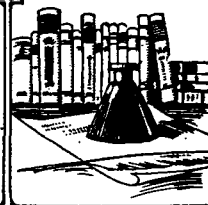
Whereas, in the passing of our revered friend and associate, the cause of Grade Unionism in general, and of Local Union No. 9 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in particular, has suffered a loss from which it shall be long in recovering, therefore be it

**R**esolved, that the members of Local Union No. 9 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers do hereby extend to the wife of our beloved friend, whose passing has deprived her of the affection of a loving husband, their deepest and most heartfelt sympathy in this, her hour of great bereavement.

|                 |                  |               |                  |                 |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Wm. Adams       | Ray Dooley       | Elmer Johnson | Dan Manning      | Wm. Parker      |
| Jas. W. Barry   | Luther M. Fox    | John Kane     | John Marks       | Chas. Pembor    |
| Ralph Brehman   | D. J. Fitzgerald | John Lamping  | Dan McAvoy       | Richard Scanlon |
| Chas. J. Conley | E. R. Green      | A. L. Lloyd   | Wm. McGrath      | Harry Slater    |
| John Domke      | Sam Guy          | Jas. Manley   | Frank P. O'Brien | Wm. Zepp        |



# CORRESPONDENCE



## L. U. NO. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO.

(No. 5 of the series of articles written by the press secretary of Local No. 1, St. Louis.)

### St. Louis' New Federal Building

St. Louis is proud indeed to have a new federal building. Local No. 1 is proud indeed to control the electrical work on this new structure. This mass of Bedford stone covers one city block square and rises in 12 stories of modern design. The top floors offsetting slightly, this stately structure greets you on the southeast corner of St. Louis' Memorial Plaza. It is of steel construction with concrete fireproofing and concrete joist floor construction using removable metal pans for slab form, which averages two and one-half to three inches on top of pans.

### Electrical Distinction

Beginning with the indoor substation, which is located 30 feet below street grade at the southeast corner of the building, the service is supplied by a 4,000-volt, three-phase primary voltage, capacity of substation, two 500-K. V. A., three-phase, four-wire lighting, 115-200-volt secondary, and three 150-K. V. A., three-phase power, 230-volt secondary.

The substation has an automatic transfer main oil circuit breaker which transfers from preferred to emergency feeders in not over 40 cycles. The operating feature of this change-over switch is the solenoid operation using dry type rectifiers supplying D. C. voltage to solenoids. There is one 500-amp. main oil breaker and two 400-amp. oil breakers, respectively, for the light and power bank of transformers. These oil breakers are manually operated.

All primary busses are three-eighth-inch iron pipe size bare copper and all secondary busses are rectangular 2 x 1/4 x 3 inches per cycle for power and 2 x 1/4 x 6 inches per cycle for light. This buss-way extends from switch station direct to main switch-board busses.

The main switchboard consists of 12 sections using built-in safety type construction and all feeders enter a large pull-box that extends over the entire top of the sections. All main feeder switches are air-break circuit breakers using three-wire for light and two-wire for power with ground busses for each.

### Many Systems Used

The following is a summary of the different systems of conduit which had to be installed:

1. Fire alarm call. (Charging system.)
2. Watchman telo call.
3. Vault alarm control system.
4. Western Union.
5. Signal system. (Low voltage.)
6. Postal Telegraph.
7. Bell Telephone.
8. Lookout telephone system.
9. Clock system. (One master and 489 sec. clocks all on charging system.)
10. Lighting system. Forty panelboards, 1,900 circuits with 15-amp. circuit breaker on each circuit.

## READ

**Local Union No. 3's Support of the Mayor's Municipal Plant. Universal Progress in New England, by L. U. No. 326.**

**Radio Advancement in Atlanta, by L. U. No. 647.**

**Municipal Ownership in San Francisco, by L. U. No. 151.**

**East St. Louis has Enviably Record of Community Service, by L. U. No. 309.**

**Tennessee Valley News, by L. U. No. 558.**

**Labor Scepticism in Canada, by L. U. No. 1037.**

**Should Wolves be Entrusted with Care of Sheep, by L. U. No. 292.**

**Public Works Projects in Indiana, by L. U. No. 723.**

**A Modern Local Functioning 100 Per Cent, by L. U. No. 40.**

**St. Louis Operates Big Job, by L. U. No. 1.**

**Big Business Strategy, by L. U. No. 25.**

**Greatest Safety Appliance for Linemen, by L. U. No. 18.**

**Growth in Canada, by L. U. No. 561.**

**Take a Fall Out of "Liberty," by L. U. No. 734.**

**State Regulation of Electrical Work, by L. U. No. 1141.**

**These reportings register a pitch of thoughtfulness, writing style, and information worthy of professional correspondents.**

11. Power system. Forty-two circuits totaling 1,500 horsepower.

12. Underfloor duct system. Six hundred and fifty thousand feet for signal, telephone, and lighting with inserts every 24 inches. This system has 550 junction boxes and connects to wire-shaft cabinets in thin wall.

### Best Materials Used

There are 2,500 switches controlling room lighting, Despard Line, 2,100 duplex receptacles on separate circuits, 1,400 fan hangers using stud to support receptacles.

More than 500,000 feet of No. 12 30 per cent circuit wire was used (and I didn't figure out how many times around the barber pole this wire would go) coded "A", red; "B", yellow; "C", blue; "Neutral", white; "Sw-leg", black; three ways; dummies, green. Runs over 75 feet from panel boards. No. 10 wire was used.

Fourteen feeder sizes are as follows for the lighting, Red, yellow, blue and white No. 8 to 700,000 c.m. Power feeders are two black and one white No. 6 to 300,000 c.m. Three wire shafts, A, B and C. The large size wire in riser conduits are supported with OZ cable supports.

There are three stairways with three and

four-way switches, and all exit lights are controlled from the main exit panel. The building has six passenger elevators, three freight elevators and one small lift. All motor circuits run to circuit breaker panels using push button control with thermal cutouts.

Two hundred thousand feet of thin wall up to one inch for lighting. Rigid conduit one and one-fourth inches to four and one-half inches used for feeders and power circuits. Thin wall was used for telo and signal systems, three-fourth inch to two inches.

The connected load for lighting is 3,000 K. V. A. and power 2,000 K. V. A. The telephone system has 2,000 connections.

The fixture contact was sub-contracted and the building will be completed shortly. The job was 100 per cent union and there was no time lost due to any labor trouble.

### Thank You, Mr. Koenemann

The E. A. Koenemann Electric Company, which happens to be the largest contractor in St. Louis, had the contract. Mr. E. A. Koenemann, commonly known amongst the trade as "Wooden Ear," because he can hear when he wants to, is to be complimented highly for his co-operation with Local No. 1 and Local No. 1 is grateful to him for working so many of their men. This contractor is the play-boy who canned me one time for wearing an overcoat on the job. Nevertheless he is a very dignified man and much credit must be given him for employing so many of our men.

Since I was fired in 1919 I have worked for him three days and he didn't know it until I was paid. Moral of the story—never wear an overcoat while working for a contractor.

### Local No. 1 News in Brief

Not many happy—not many sad, until a benefit and tacky party was given February 23 in our own hall, with some 800 to 900 in attendance and clearing around \$200 for our benefit fund for distressed members. The music stopped at 1:30 and the party stopped at 2:30 without disaster. Everybody had a wonderful time and went home exclaiming, "Why don't we have these affairs more often?" With the conduct of all concerned there may be a dance once a month. Harmony prevails and must continue. Yours truly furnished the music with his own orchestra.

Bachie, you're sure doing your stuff. Keep at it. I like to read it.

M. A. "MORRY" NEWMAN,  
A Lover of "Light" Work.

## L. U. NO. 18, LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

### Editor:

My subject this month was to have been about the wire stringing machine, designed by the engineers of the bureau of power and light, city of Los Angeles, but as they are delayed in their wire stringing, due to a delay in delivery of hardware for the line, and as I stated before that I don't want to give the details of this until I can see it in operation, therefore, I am writing about a subject which,

to me, is just as interesting. Having been all my life a strict believer in safety and safety appliances, I herewith submit to the readers of the JOURNAL, what I believe to be one of the greatest safety appliances that has ever been brought to my attention.

This appliance is known as the Andrews Safety Jumper, and is the product of one of Local No. 18's members. He designed and patented it. A picture of it will be found in this issue. Having been given the most severe test that could be thought of, the jumper stood up 100 per cent in every test. Here are some of the details: Weight of jumper, with No. 1 flexible wire insulated with varnished cambric, good for at least 30,000 volts, approximately 19½ pounds; insulated handles, good for 75,000 volts. You will note in the picture that the jumper has one long and one short handle. The long handle is 36 inches long and it contains the circuit breaker, two bronze bushings, a spring apparatus making it impossible for the person operating it to get a flash. The operation of the circuit breaker is very simple. By putting the hook over the wire and pulling on the hand-hold and giving it an eighth or quarter turn it is then locked open and it cannot be closed until the hook is tight on the wire, making it absolutely fool proof. The short handled is 16 inches in length; the hooks on each end are made of bronze with a steel flax (or push bar), with a rough surface for cutting the insulation. The correct method to use it is to open the jaws of the ends, hook the short one over first, tighten up on the handle and raise and lower a couple of times, and the insulation is then cut. Again tighten the handle and the contact is made. Then follow the same procedure on the other end and when you tighten the handle the second time, you pull the trigger and your circuit is closed in one-fiftieth of a second.

The jumper plays two important parts, it closes the circuit in less than half the time employed in the old style, and it is real safety measure for linemen. How well some of us older ones know how dangerous it is to be trying to close a circuit of broken primaries, in a heavy rain or snow, or sleet storm, getting out the old dull skinning knife, hands almost frozen, or your clothes wet as water, and cutting into that insulation and your rubber gloves with water dripping off—what a jolt we got! Well, all that is eliminated with this modern equipment, and the cost is negligible, compared to the saving in time and, what I am interested in mostly, lives. The cost of the jumpers in dozen lots is quoted at \$15 each.

There is much more to be said about this jumper. I wanted to explain the heat test, the water test, the ground test, etc., but space will not permit. My suggestion is that the Brothers who work for electric light and power concerns interest themselves or their employers in getting in touch with R. P. Andrews, I. B. E. W. Local No. 18, 540 Maple Ave., Los Angeles, Calif., and full particulars will be mailed. This is certainly worth any lineman's efforts at trying to save a life.

Now a few lines about Local No. 18. We are at the present time in a slight doldrum, due to the fact that the hardware (mostly static rings) is slow in reaching its destination, and it has the wire stringing on the Boulder transmission line delayed, and several of the worthy members of L. U. No. 18 are taking a forced vacation due to this fact. We have hopes that it won't be for very long.

As this is being written, the President's old age security bill is being savagely attacked in Congress, and rightly it should be. I had com-

menced to think of him as our good friend and advisor. Upton Sinclair, of Pasadena, says of him that he will do everything possible that he can do for the unemployed, the poor and the aged, so long as he doesn't hurt the rich. This old age sop he has put out certainly proves it, but I will leave this subject for the editorial staff of the JOURNAL, as they can explain it so the dumbest of us can understand.

J. E. HORNE.

#### L. U. NO. 25, NASSAU AND SUFFOLK COUNTIES, N. Y.

Editor:

Two years ago in the February, 1933, issue of the JOURNAL I wrote my observations as to labor's part in the New Deal, which was as yet inoperative. In the light of recent events, affecting organized labor and working people in general, it may be well to take inventory so that we may plan the future campaign for the welfare and wellbeing of the working class. I use the term class literally. Big Business and its two favored offsprings, the U. S. C. of C. and the Manufacturers' Association, are determined that the large mass of workers in this country shall be kept on the leash of quasi-pauperism. They may attempt to refute this charge by pointing proud fingers at their endorsement of old age pensions and unemployment insurance, but it does not require a very close inspection of these measures to see that they have been emasculated and devitalized until they are empty vessels holding no hope of real material benefit for those for whom these social reforms were intended to offer some measure of security.

They endorse these reforms, but what prompts their generosity? Their reasoning in effect must be something like this: "Direct relief and public works appropriations are costing too much in taxes, therefore, let us make the wage earner contribute part of his earnings each week to keep his less fortunate brother off public charity and call it unemployment insurance and old age pensions." The theory is also to keep the workers in a position of constant insecurity and dependence so that they will be more tractable and less likely to rise up and demand their rights.

"Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Those are the guarantees upon which this nation was founded, but through the machinations of a few powerful groups this has become a mere platitude. The time has come for a reassertion of American independence, stiffening of the national backbone and articulation of the people's voice.

The two major political parties are supposedly the medium of expression of the

people's desires, and two years ago the Democratic party seemed to fulfill labor's hopes that it would act in the interests of the mass for the common good. Since the inception of the present administration, labor has co-operated whole-heartedly and gone more than half way to aid the program of recovery. But stronger influences seem to have won the Administration away from the spirit of the ideals upon which the party was swept into power.

In the spring of 1933 the 30-hour week bill was as good as passed and was only stopped by a compromise offer of the NIRA, which has since become notorious for its ambiguity. It has been said that the devil can quote scripture to his own end. The same can be said of the NRA. Through maladministration, vacillation and lack of enforcement of the spirit of the act, it has become a colossal flop. Now the 30-hour week bill is once more before Congress. What new nostrum will be offered to forestall passage of this bill?

Labor has taken it on the chin long enough. It has given its powerful political support to candidates of both parties who have betrayed us once they were elected. Let us not expend such a powerful political influence in such non-productive efforts again. Neither political party is going to aid labor; their make-up is too complex; they must cater to too many diverse groups with conflicting aims and views.

Labor will obtain recognition only by consolidating all its forces into a vast, strongly disciplined political group, which when voting without defection is bound to exert an edifying influence, commanding the respect of our public servants whatever their political faith. Labor should have learned by this time that throwing our weight first to one side then to the other only dissipates our strength and solidarity. Let us no longer be political nomads, rather let us all attain our own objectives and fight our own battles for the common good without compromise.

MARK COSTELLO.

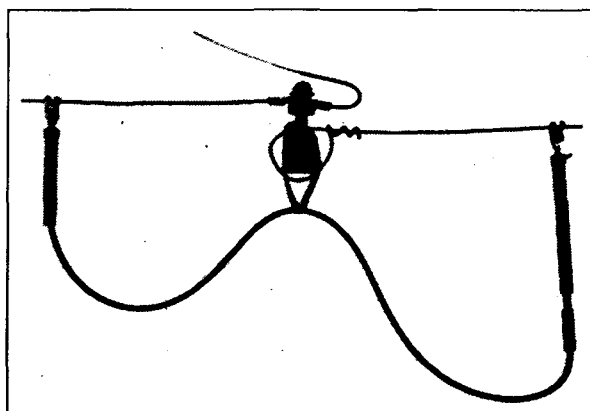
#### L. U. NO. 26, GOVERNMENTAL BRANCH, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Editor:

Our government branch is seven years old this month. Many things can happen in seven years, and many things have happened in the last seven. No doubt most of us feel as though we have passed through a hurricane, still we are luckier than thousands of the boys who work at our trade, judging from the letters I read in our Journal coming from all parts of the country.

Every local has its problems and while ours may not be so many or so varied as those confronting the locals outside the government service, they are just as important in their bearing on labor conditions. For example, there is the problem of time and half for Sunday work. Certainly the men who work on Sundays are entitled to this extra compensation, but we lost it in the economy shuffle. On Capitol Hill we have the problem of an improved retirement law.

Apparently most civil service employees favor a 30-year optional retirement feature in this legislation. I understand that certain members of Congress are opposed to this optional retirement after 30 years on the ground that employees would retire too young and then go out and take jobs away from other workers. To most of us this sounds like pure unadulterated horsefeathers. The majority of men taking advantage of this optional retirement would be in their late fifties. We all know the practice of



The Andrews Patented Jumper, the Greatest Life-Saving Device Brought Out For the Protection of Linemen in a Decade, Highly Recommended by Those Who Have Seen It in Its Operation. In Use by Members of L. U. No. 18.



employers. We know that in nearly all cases they refuse to hire any but young men. Granting that a very small percentage of them did succeed in obtaining outside employment, this slight drawback would be more than offset by the fact that in the great majority of cases they would be making room in Uncle Sam's service for young men starting out in life. Maybe I am wrong. Maybe it would be better to arrange our employment system to the end that young men coming out of high school and college could walk the streets and become professional bums.

April 1 marks the end of another "noble experiment"—the government wage cut. Gone, but not forgotten! Not forgotten by the employees who were trying to buy homes; not forgotten by the employees who were trying to support their own families and the families of unemployed relatives at the same time; not forgotten by employees who were existing on skimpy incomes even before the cut went into effect; not forgotten by business men who found the employees good spenders and good pay; not forgotten by the 101 charitable organizations that had learned to rely on donations that came on government paydays, and last but not least, not forgotten by the misguided dodos who believed that a federal pay cut would lower their taxes. Yes, there is much to remember about this "noble experiment." Most of it we prefer to forget. Let us not forget, however, that the cut would still be in effect but for the tireless efforts of the labor organizations.

Brother Jack Sullender camped on my trail to write something for the JOURNAL, so here's hoping he likes it. The rest of the gang are probably wondering who wound me up and how soon it will happen again.

For my part, I believe that what the office of press secretary needs is another Tom Crann.

CLARENCE DURAND.

Your sole contribution to the sum of things is yourself.—Frank Crane.

#### L. U. NO. 28, BALTIMORE, MD.

Editor:

Early in the month of February one of the greatest electrical projects ever conceived in this locality was completed, namely the electrification of 225 miles of railroad by the Pennsylvania Railroad. The work began in 1928 and about five years later electric service was extended from New York to Wilmington, Del. At this time the construction funds were exhausted and as private financing through the investment market was impossible due to economic conditions, the work was halted. Uncle Sam, however, finally came to the rescue. The Public Works Administration voted a loan of \$80,000,000 for the completion of the work and purchase of new electric locomotives, and the job was carried on to completion.

On the trial run the first locomotive pulling a train of eight cars from Philadelphia to Washington made the record time of one hour and 50 minutes. It was clocked at a top speed of 102 miles per hour. These giant locomotives develop 4,620 horsepower, have a cruising speed of 90 miles per hour and under favorable conditions can reach the speed of 120 miles per hour.

The run from New York to Washington has been cut down in time from four hours and 15 minutes, the fastest time made with the old steam engines, to three hours and 30 minutes. This enables the railroad to compete with air transportation on short hauls, for when one considers the time spent traveling to and from the airports, the difference in traveling time is negligible.

The power supply is picked up at four different points. First, at the company's own steam plant in New York. Second, at Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Electric Co. furnishing current from the Conowingo hydro-electric plant. Third, at Perryville, Md., the Gas and Electric Co., of Baltimore, provides power from Safe Harbor; and fourth, at Washington, more Safe Harbor power is supplied by the Potomac Electric Power Co.

The high tension lines carry single phase, 25-cycle current at 132,000 volts. At 52 points

between New York and Washington there are substations where this is transformed to 11,000 volts, which is carried on the trolley. The 132,000-volt lines are carried overhead on steel poles, except through the municipalities of Washington and Baltimore, where they are carried underground in a large pipe filled with oil under pressure to keep out moisture.

All in all, the Pennsylvania Railroad has spent a pretty sum of money to modernize its road. They spent quite a sum in the state of Maryland, but organized electrical workers have as yet to get one penny's earning opportunity from them. So yours truly will stick to Baltimore's own union road, whether they use steam, Diesel or what have you, and I hope you will do the same.

JOHN A. BECK.

#### L. U. NO. 38, CLEVELAND, OHIO

Editor:

This group picture, composed of members of Local No. 38, of Cleveland, Ohio, was made possible by the renovizing job of William Taylor, Son and Company department store, in which the electrical workers shared the largest amount of labor of any trade.

The job lasted several months and required from six to as high as 140 men in one week and operated at times in three shifts.

A few of the men received only a few days' work, others two, three and four weeks, and some worked the entire duration of the project, under the foremanship of Brother F. Brewster for the Martien Electric Company.

The work was completed a few months ago and since that time many of our men have been hoping that one or more jobs like this one would materialize, as many of our members have had very little work in the past three years and present prospects are not promising.

During the three weeks I worked on the job I acted as steward and it afforded me much pleasure to see so many men on one job again, so I arranged for this picture



Part of the Crew From L. U. No. 38, Cleveland, on the Renovizing Job at William Taylor, Son and Company Department Store.

to be taken, but I am sorry that I was unable to have the entire 140 men in the picture, due to the fact that some were on different shifts.

Many of the men bought a picture, while others felt they could not afford to buy one at that time.

We would be grateful, Mr. Editor, if you could publish the full size of this print of the picture in the next issue of the JOURNAL.

LEONARD A. FIDERIUS.

#### L. U. NO. 40, HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.

Editor:

Having just been appointed press secretary for Local No. 40, it is my purpose to try to keep you informed of all the news to the best of my ability.

The local has jurisdiction over the motion picture industry. Our members do the construction maintenance, lighting of sets and all branches of sound recording, as well as the operation of special effects, such as rain, smoke and explosives.

We operate under an agreement entered into by a committee of several international unions and a committee of producers, which agreement has still some time to run. We have been under this arrangement since 1926 with the complete absence of friction and with satisfaction to both the producers and ourselves.

As with everything worth while, this local has achieved its position and present status by fighting for everything to which it is entitled and that which belongs to it. We have had to carry on in face of efforts directed toward its extermination by forces other than our employers.

In the pursuance of our duties, rivalries have sprung up and sometimes bitterness has crept in. All of which tend to weaken the structure and make it ineffective.

We feel that the course being pursued by our officers with the able direction and counsel of International Representative W. A. Kelly will tend to wipe out the differences of the past and turn all eyes and all feet on the one path forward.

The keynote of the officers and staff of Local No. 40 is co-operation. The machinery is existent together with the will to help the members help themselves. The individual follower of this business is powerless to help himself unless by membership in this local his voice is multiplied many hundreds of times, and unless he is willing to place his efforts in a forward direction along with his fellow workers, he is still ineffective.

This local union has faithfully guarded the stewardship of the jurisdiction granted to us by our International. In fulfilling the duties of our stewardship we have gone through some bitter conflicts. We are today one of the largest locals in the Brotherhood. Among our members today may be found a few who seek to keep alive degrading and weakening jurisdictional disputes and who in pursuance of their desires are not fully co-operative with the ideals and purposes of our organization.

No member should ever so conduct himself, that by his activities or example, he works against the best interests of his fellow employees.

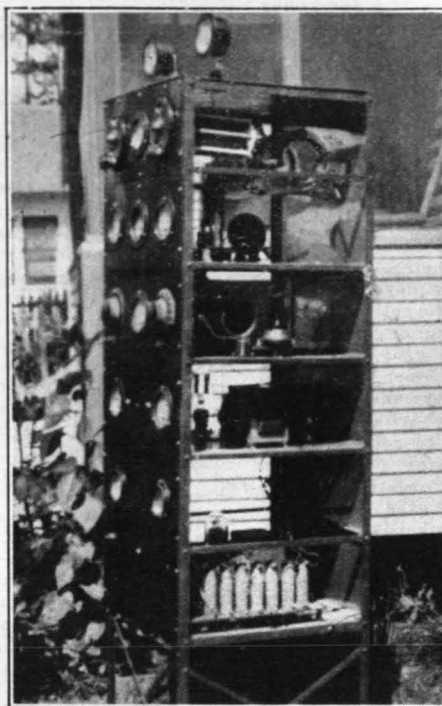
It is the inherent duty of every member to consider the best interests of his fellow craftsmen, in order that he, too, may enjoy the fullest fruits that come from unity of purpose and action.

For the greatest good of all, it is the duty of all other members, and to their personal interest to use every means to convince all the workers in our industry, whether members or not, of their responsibilities to their industry and to the union of their craft.

The earnest efforts of our officers are being

## FRATERNITY OF THE AIR

(Copyright)



Boys, here is our growing list of I. B. E. W. amateur radio stations:

|           |                       |                       |
|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| W 8 A N B | Carl P. Goetz         | Hamilton, Ohio        |
| W 8 D I   | E. E. Hertz           | Cleveland, Ohio       |
| W 3 J B   | William N. Wilson     | Philadelphia, Pa.     |
| W 5 B H O | D. H. Calk            | Houston, Texas        |
| W 5 E I   | F. H. Ward            | Houston, Texas        |
| W 6 H O B | Rudy Rear             | Las Vegas, Nev.       |
| W 9 G V Y | E. O. Schuman         | Chicago, Ill.         |
| W 8 D H Q | Harold C. Whitford    | Hornell, N. Y.        |
| W 9 S M F | Albert H. Waters      | Alton, Ill.           |
| W 9 D M Z | Clarence Kraus        | Kansas City, Kans.    |
| W 9 P N H | Frank Riggs           | Rockford, Ill.        |
| W 9 S O O | Harry V. Eyring       | Kansas City, Mo.      |
| W 2 B F L | Anthony J. Samalionis | Elizabeth, N. J.      |
| W 1 F J A | Frank W. Lavery       | Somerville, Mass.     |
| W 5 A S D | Frank A. Finger       | Farmington, Ark.      |
| W 2 B Q B | William E. Kind       | Bronx, N. Y. C.       |
| W 9 D B Y | Kenneth G. Alley      | Marion, Ill.          |
| W 8 G H X | H. E. Owen            | Angola, N. Y.         |
| W 1 A G I | W. C. Nielson         | Newport, R. I.        |
| W 8 E D R | W. O. Beck            | Toledo, Ohio          |
| W 2 C A D | Paul A. Ward          | Newark, N. J.         |
| W 6 L R S | Ralph F. Koch         | Los Angeles, Calif.   |
| W 6 A O R | Francis M. Sarver     | Los Angeles, Calif.   |
| W 6 G F I | Roy Meadows           | Los Angeles, Calif.   |
| W 6 F W M | Victor B. Appel       | Los Angeles, Calif.   |
| W 6 H L K | Charles A. Noyes      | Beverly Hills, Calif. |
| W 6 H L X | Frank A. Maher        | Los Angeles, Calif.   |
| N 8 D M E | Charles J. Heiser     | Auburn, N. Y.         |
| W 8 K C L | Charles J. Heiser     | Auburn, N. Y.         |
| W 9 R R X | Bob J. Adair          | Midlothian, Ill.      |
| W 2 D X K | Irving Megeff         | Brooklyn, N. Y.       |

#### Canada

V E 3 G K

Sid Burnett

Toronto, Ont.

The photograph is the station of D. H. Calk, Houston, Texas.

## FRATERNITY GROWS BY COMMUNICATION



rewarded by an increasing spirit of co-operation and hope. As a result, it is very apparent to those of us who have the opportunity to view the results obtained because of this, that it has proven well worth while.

Because of the nature of the services rendered by our local to its members and our employers, we believe that our office is one of the busiest institutions in the city.

Our business manager, Charles E. Dwyer, with his assistant, H. P. Foss, and a staff of two office assistants, takes care of the placing of hundreds of men monthly, as needed by the studios in production of pictures.

It is a common sight to members who pass our premises at night to see the lights of our office ablaze until very late hours.

In the experience of the writer, when at the office at night, the phone is rarely silent for more than a short interval.

We feel that it is desirable that each and every member should acquaint himself with what the organization can do for him.

It is my purpose to, from time to time, advise our members and the Brotherhood, through this medium, as to what has been or is being accomplished for them.

At this writing, we are in receipt of information from the east that as a result of the conference between our producers and our International Office, that substantial gains have been made for certain classifications of our jurisdiction.

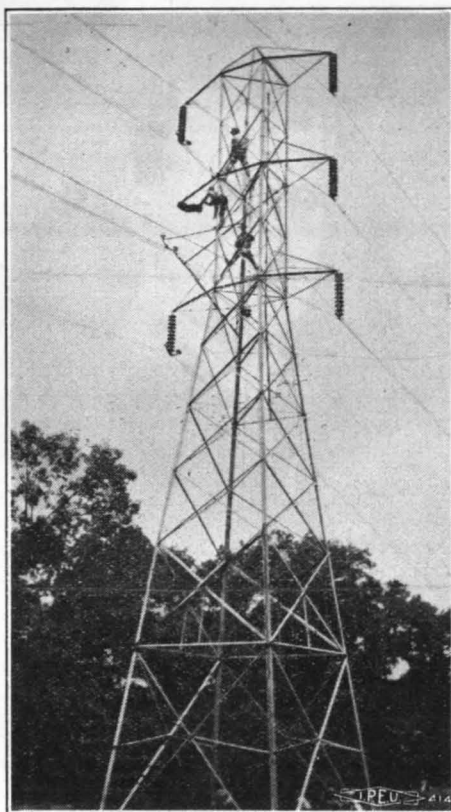
I hope to be able, at my next writing, to give further details of this matter.

R. C. SCAIFE.

#### L. U. NO. 51, PEORIA, ILL.

Editor:

Members of Peoria electric distribution department of Central Illinois Light Company have worked from June 28, 1933, until the present time without a lost time accident and have done their part to help the company win the National Safety Council contest two times in succession. Left to right, front row, seated: T. Knoll (patrolman), F. Burrell, C. Aldrich, C. Lawrence, O. Seymour (assistant city foreman), F. Matlin, T. Henry, F. Loesher (tree permit man), A. Motteler, V. Reed, H. Runyan, L. Holly, F. Klooz, O. Pingleton. Second row, left to right: J. Zinkhon (superintendent of district), H.



Members of L. U. No. 51 Working on the Line From Springfield, Ill.

Burt, R. Marlatt, C. Moore, W. Mitchell, C. Mattlin, W. Swan, R. Bradley, A. Griggs, H. Motteler, G. Dodd, O. Riemers, L. Aldrich, Jr., W. Green, B. Hayward (city foreman). Back row, left to right: R. Huff, C. Dixon, H. Hunn, T. Burns, C. Zinkhon, J. Mahar, E. Ruff, M. Fitzgibbons, H. Polonus, E. Madine, E. Tillman, W. Reed, W. Moore, R. Barnes and T. Finnell. With the exception of those who are titled, the entire group are members of L. U. No. 51, of Peoria, Ill.

Brother E. Madine and crew have been working out of Springfield the past week on

the Springfield tower line, changing broken insulators. This work is very tedious inasmuch as it is performed without interrupting service. An insulated stick, or hot-stick, in the jargon of the lineman, is used to make the changes. The Springfield line on which the men are working carries 142,000 volts.

Local No. 51 is back in the WORKER again. First time for about two years. We never knew why until just recently, found out that Brother Burns has been sending all mail and news to the Farm and Home Magazine, so that more of our friends could have seen it than our Brothers. But your new correspondent has decided to stay with the WORKER.

Being as groundhog day is long past, we wonder why Al Motteler's boys don't shave? We're still around that same old corner, working 24 hours a week. Things look better, I hope? Hope to have some more news for next time.

YOUR NEW CORRESPONDENT.

#### L. U. NO. 65, BUTTE, MONT.

Editor:

Again greetings from the Rockies in old Montana.

Since the last edition a number of things have happened with the electrical workers in Butte. Brother Jerry Ellerige has passed from our midst. Jerry was liked very much by those who were most closely associated with him. His object seemed to be the good he could do for others. A wife and son are left to mourn him, as well as many friends.

Hello, Local No. 537; you sure have two oldtimers. Tulley Brausser, have you your ribbon we wore in Shreveport during our strike? In the wee hours of morning we were invited by about 500 citizens to get across the Red River bridge into Arkansas. Days of real sport. Charley Paulsen missed all this; he had tripped back to Chicago.

Brother Durkin, can you think of the time when I tangled with the Knoxville trolley in Galesburg? It was quite a job some Sundays getting our cans of beer across the alley from Mother O'Donnell's boarding house.

Bachie, keep still about Decatur and Peoria. You make happy days come back. I had a grand time there in 1902. Went



PEORIA ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT—NO LOST TIME OR ACCIDENTS JUNE 28, 1933, TO JUNE 28, 1934.



up to see Dave Prescott. I suppose he has been gone for many years. He was quite old then. Played the big show and matinee for Charley Mackley in Peoria, Postal Telegraph.

Brother Tracy, am I misled or are you going to pay the Rocky Mountain boys a visit? Besides getting some information that you seemed to have missed we have fine scenery. Get the first-hand information on who came off the job, who stayed on and who told them to stay at their respective jobs. They were on the job but had a vote to see if we would accept the agreement and go back to work, though they had not come off. The Great Falls men were told to stay on the job. In regard to L. U. No. 200, refer to telegrams of our president of June 16 and June 19, and your reply of June 25, 6:18 p. m. Let's get together and get the facts.

R. G. WHITEHEAD.

#### L. U. NO. 79, SYRACUSE, N. Y.

Editor:

In the February issue mention was made of an opportunity being prepared for some of our workers who have been so backward about coming forward. We have been successful in our request to reopen our charter, and the way is now clear for those who desire one more chance to avail themselves of the privilege of selecting a bonafide organization to represent them in their collective bargaining, and at the same low cost figure, as was presented to you more than a year ago. March 31, 1935, is the final closing date at this low price.

There is an old adage that says, "There are none so blind as they that won't see."

It is a conceded fact that we can't all of us be big shots, riding in the driver's seat, where we can see so many things ahead, and it need not necessarily follow that the rest of us ride the tail board, where we see nothing until it is passed, because some look ahead over the sides of the van.

During the war, our country had in its employ what were known as dollar-a-year men, who waxed fat on such a stipend, and during our temporary acceptance under the NRA we have several dollar-a-year men; that is, they paid a dollar a year ago (that's all) and have been waxing fat ever since. We have no desire to offend, nor do we wish to mention names, yet, but we do feel that these dollar-a-year men and the "bleacher quarterbacks" shall join the team before giving so freely of unwelcome advice.

Our time is limited; this is a short month; still we hope to get in under the wire for publication. Subsequent results will determine whether or not we shall publish a list of our "patriotics" at one "buck" a year.

Brother Con O'Connor, thanks for the very pleasant visit, and the honest fulfillment of your obligation.

Juneau, tell Mrs. Juneau to get busy for an auxiliary.

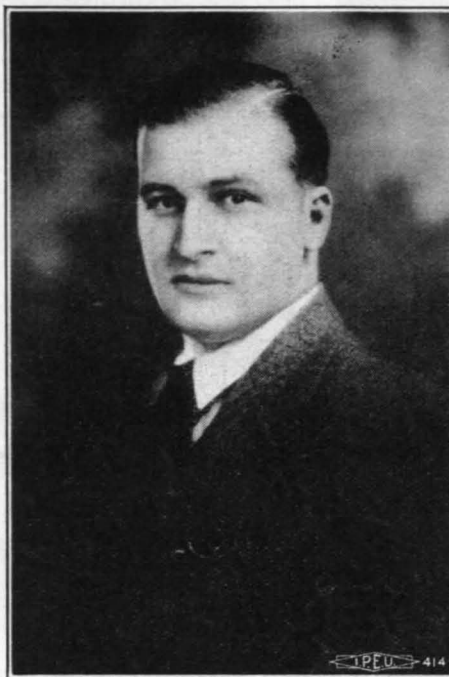
EXECUTIVE BOARD.

#### L. U. NO. 121, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Editor:

Before reclassification, government electricians were paid a salary that was scarcely possible to live on and when they asked for an increase in salary, were told to wait for reclassification which would equalize all salaries for the same work. So they waited. Reclassification came, and what did it bring? The electricians in the higher salaries were exempted from reclassification and the lower salaried men were put under the custodial service and classed with the charwomen, watchmen and janitors.

L. U. No. 121 is making a hard fight to



HAROLD K. WHITFORD,  
L. U. No. 3, New York City.

Harold K. Whitford has repeatedly won laurels for his distinguished service to wild animal life in New York State and the nation and for his successful leadership of boys in the Boy Scout field. On January 28, Whitford achieved an honor that no member of the Boy Scouts of America ever won before. On that day he became the recipient of the Dr. William Hornaday gold medal for distinguished service to wild life. Previously he had received Dr. Hornaday's gold honor badge for the establishment of 100 wild life sanctuaries.

Mr. Whitford has been a member of this union for eight years.

bring up these lower salaries and make it worth while for an electrician to work for the government.

At last we have a real chance, while not as much as we expected, it will bring the salaries of all government mechanics up to the navy yard rates.

Due to the efforts of our international legislative representative, Mr. McDonagh, an amendment was added to the Sirovich bill, known as H. R. 3980, putting all government mechanics not otherwise exempted from reclassification under the naval wage board which governs the salaries of navy yards.

As stated before, this does not give the electricians who are now in the custodial service as high a rate as those in some of the other bureaus, but it does give them a living wage.

L. U. No. 121 has taken the lead and is bearing most of the expense in the fight for this amendment and our hard working president, Brother Carl Johnson, has arranged for meetings of all groups of mechanics affected by the bill. Several of these meetings have been held and have been well attended by representatives from several of the other

trades. Other meetings are in prospect in the near future. Should this bill become a law, it will be a great step forward toward making the government service much more attractive for men in the mechanical trades.

A. A. LUDWIG.

#### L. U. NO. 124, KANSAS CITY, MO.

Editor:

##### WHAT NEW DEAL?

The present national administration was swept into power in 1932 by an unprecedented landslide of votes against the old order.

We were tired of special privilege, arrogant disregard of human rights and needless poverty. Last fall, feeling that perhaps the administration was not sure of the wholehearted support of the people for a change in our economic set-up, we gave the greatest vote of encouragement ever given an administration in American history.

Now, after two years in power and after a new Congress has been in session two months we have a right to take stock of actual accomplishments of this administration.

Has the "forgotten man" been taken care of? Have the people, labor in particular, any more hope of "a more abundant life"? I don't know—I'm just asking.

During this long period of idleness most of us have had a lot of time we did not know what to do with. Without any money, there is little one can do but wait and acquire what knowledge we can by reading and listening.

Sifting the real news from the mass of propaganda in the daily press, whose editorial opinions are those of their advertisers, whose opinions in turn are dictated by big business. We are listening on the radio to politicians whose political life they owe to the corporations who financed their campaigns. But, now and then we hear a voice which rings with conviction and truth and a real desire to render service to the common people. Such a one is Father Charles E. Coughlin, of Royal Oak, Mich., who speaks at three o'clock, central standard time, Sundays on a 29-station hook-up. No union man could take exception to any one of the 16 points in the platform of the National Union for Social Justice. He has no axe to grind. He is not looking for office; he has a lifetime job. He would only have to get off the air to be a rich man. Religion does not enter into this movement, except the religion of humanity among men. The power of the organization behind him has already been felt in Washington in the defeat of the infamous World Court. If he has done nothing but tear the veil of mystery away so we can see the nigger behind the financial woodpile, he has done a valiant service for the people of our country.

We are still for the New Deal—a new New Deal of action and results, not promises and platitudes, a New Deal that will assure us of a living wage, of a chance to rear and educate our families in decency and security. We feel that if enough workers back up Father Coughlin and the National Union for Social Justice we shall have such a New Deal.

J. H. CARR.

MARSHALL LEAVITT.

#### L. U. NO. 151, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

Editor:

Much water has probably passed under the bridge since the JOURNAL has heard from L. U. No. 151.

Since August, 1934, we have been engaged in a municipal ownership campaign which is gaining in momentum daily.

We have a special municipal ownership committee of seven members, namely: Brothers B. E. Hayland, C. D. Mull, Dick Osbourne, Frank Grigsby, Jack Streeter, Rex Maye and



#### DIAMOND-SHAPED BUTTONS

To wear in your coat lapel, carry the emblem and insignia of the I. B. E. W. Gold faced and handsomely enameled. \$2.50

Gerald Pickle. (I am the fellow with the funny name.) Brother Hayland, business manager of L. U. No. 151, is the chairman and I am secretary of the committee.

The committee has instructed me to write to the JOURNAL.

The city of San Francisco now owns and operates a power house at Moccasin Creek, on the Tuolumne River, the capacity of which is now 100,000 kva. This energy is now being sold to the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, through a so-called "agency contract," designed for the purpose of evading the Raker Act provisions, which specifically state that power generated on the Hetch Hetchy Project shall not be sold to any corporation for resale at a profit. (I cannot stretch my imagination to the point where I can believe that the P. G. & E. would sell without a profit.)

The city's high line starts at Moccasin Power House, runs across the Sierra foothills, the San Joaquin valley and the west coast range to Newark Terminal, a P. G. & E. station. From there the power is brought to the city over the P. G. & E. lines, an arrangement very unsatisfactory to those who want municipal distribution of the city's electric energy. To attain such distribution, it will be necessary for the city to build a high tension line from Newark to the San Francisco county line, to a step-down station to connect with the proposed distribution system. The distance to be covered by the high line is 44.1 miles.

Local No. 151 held an open meeting on January 24. Those who attended were rewarded by hearing a brilliant address by Supervisor Frank R. Havener, who is making a great fight for municipal ownership in San Francisco. Brother Amos Feeley, of this international district, presided at the meeting and also made a very fine plea for municipal ownership.

We believe revenue bonds to be the best method of financing the construction of municipal utilities, and L. U. No. 151 has presented the following resolution to the San Francisco board of supervisors:

"Whereas the city of San Francisco must construct a system for municipal distribution of Hetch Hetchy power, in order to retain the rights granted to the city under the terms of the Raker Act; and

"Whereas the most feasible method of financing such a project is through the issuance of revenue bonds, due to the fact that such bonds must be paid out of the revenues of such projects and will not increase the tax rate; therefore be it

"Resolved, That Local Union No. 151, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, endorses revenue bonds as a means of financing the construction of a municipally owned electric distribution system; and be it further

"Resolved, That we favor an amendment to the city charter permitting the city to issue revenue bonds to finance municipally owned, self-liquidating public utilities in San Francisco.

"Respectfully submitted,

"ELECTRICAL WORKERS' UNION No. 151.

(Signed) "F. S. DUNNE, Secretary."

Local Union No. 151 is requesting all affiliated unions in San Francisco to take similar action in regards to the above measure.

We believe the passage of revenue bonds, incidentally, municipal ownership of public utilities, will benefit all labor in San Francisco, and will contribute much to the welfare of all the citizens of this community. We have a real live municipal ownership committee, which is now organizing, from our membership, a crew to assist in this campaign. We are requesting our members to volunteer their services to the committee, and as this campaign expands, we will request all mem-

bers of the I. B. E. W. in San Francisco to co-operate with us. Arrangements are now being made for members of L. U. No. 151 to visit affiliated unions, with a view towards acquainting them with the facts, and so obtaining their co-operation. We have waited long for municipal electric distribution in this city, and now that we have the opportunity, we are determined to push this progressive and patriotic measure through to a successful conclusion.

As soon as we can get it assembled in the proper manner we will forward to the research department of the I. B. E. W. a history of the Hetch Hetchy project and municipal ownership in San Francisco.

We intend to let readers of the JOURNAL know of our progress in this campaign from time to time. We would appreciate any advice any affiliated union or any Brother has to offer, and if this letter should prove of value to any local that has a similar problem, we are more than glad.

GERALD PICKLE,  
Municipal Ownership Committee,  
L. U. No. 151.

#### L. U. NO. 210, ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.

Editor:

As I promised to give an account of our social affair at Pomona, N. J., which was scheduled for January 25, I will say that it had to be postponed on account of the severe weather conditions. However, it was held on February 8 and was a success in more ways than one. We had an attendance of about 120, which included members and their friends from Atlantic City, Pleasantville, Ocean City, Somers Point, Wildwood, Minetola, Egg Harbor, and Philadelphia. The snow was very deep along the parking space and several cars had to be pushed to get back on the road when they started for home. The committee held a drawing for a radio which now belongs to Tom McCrossen, business agent of the bartenders' union of Atlantic City. And was he pleased?

Well, the Great Weather Maker sent us a sleet storm in these parts which made the boys a few extra bucks but, believe me, they earned all they got, as the weather was awful cold with plenty of wind. The weak spots were located all right but are not repaired in a permanent manner, as these outfits are too cheap to put men on the job and get it completed. "Maw" Bell brought in gangs from other parts not affected by the storm and soon had the roads and alleys strung full of emergency loops, so that everything was in working order in a few days. The "ding bat" had a lot of breaks on their main trunk but they cut on with the Bell till they got back in shape without hiring any extra help. The railroad is doing the same thing, so I guess "Maw" Bell is getting a nice royalty from the other outfits. Sometimes I wonder if the Great Weather Maker is altogether pleased with the breaks that these concerns gave to those looking for work. Maybe He will send another one some of these days and make it big enough so that every man who carries a card could go to work and have an income without working his fool head off. Plenty of men for the job is my motto.

Bachie has already told you of our little chat and I would like to apologize for any and all mis-statements that I have made; however, there are some more things that need to be ironed out before I make further comment on the labor movement here, so until then everything is "hotsy totsy."

Since the groundhog has crawled back in his den after seeing how tough it is to get by in the cold weather, I guess a lot of us wish we were fixed as well as the groundhog.

Well, fellers, if you want to find out the latest news in regard to the new industry that is about to start here just ask "Nemo," he knows the details.

"Ho-Bo" BEN.

#### Local Union No. 3 Endorses Mayor LaGuardia's Municipal Plant

Editor:

In accordance with the action of our local union at a regular meeting held on Thursday, February 14, 1935, I have been instructed to forward the following resolution to you for your information and publication. This resolution was unanimously adopted by our membership.

Whereas the building of new power houses and generating plants for the purpose of supplying light, heat and power at a cost within the reach of the average worker is necessary; and

Whereas the natural resources of our country should be owned and run by the people and not exploited for private profit; and

Whereas the building of such plants will give jobs to many unemployed; and

Whereas the privately owned utility corporations refuse to recognize employees who express a desire to join an organization other than the company owned and controlled unions; therefore be it

Resolved, That Local Union No. 3 of the I. B. E. W., give its endorsement to the plan for the building of publicly owned power houses; and be it further

Resolved, That only members of bona fide trade unions be hired to maintain and supervise power houses built with the public funds; and be it further

Resolved, That our delegates to the Central Trades and Labor Council be instructed to present this resolution at its next meeting; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to every local union in New York, to the Electrical Workers' Journal for publication, to all labor publications, and to the general press, and to the mayor of the city of New York.

G. W. WHITFORD,  
Recording Secretary, Local No. 3.

L. U. NO. 211, ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.  
Editor:

Life is a funny thing after all: Germany beheads three women, two for treason and one for murder, in less than a week, and there is hardly so much as the lifting of an eyebrow through these United States. But a storm of protest arises over the Hauptman verdict. That despicable baby-snatcher is guilty as h— in my opinion and deserves the "hot-squat" and I'll even go farther and state that in the beginning when he couldn't explain where and how he got the ransom money, other than from a man now dead, who left it in his care, I would have strung the rat up to the nearest X-arm.

Last night, in one of the news reels, Reilly, the "extinguished" counsel for the defense, expressed the hope that the court of errors and appeals would not be governed by mob hysteria and that the "carpenter of Flemington" would not be needlessly crucified. Reilly may think that was a wise crack but the subtle comparison of the condemned louse with the "Carpenter of Nazareth" was nothing short of the rankest of blasphemy. And the idea of making a three-ring circus out of any trial should be abolished immediately.

I read in the papers that more than \$10,000,000 passed through the pari mutuels at Santa Anita during the first 53 days of its existence, while here in Jersey the governor is fighting hard to push through the state legislature a 2-cent sales tax and a state income tax, to support a bunch of bums now on the ERA, who wouldn't work when times were good. Those two news flashes are literally as far apart as the two poles and they have me wondering as to whether this

five-year depression is a reality or only a rumor.

During the life of the CWA last year I was "burned up" with the high and mighty manners of most of the white-collar workers in the administration personnel of this county. They assumed that they were God's chosen people, forgetting that they were really only "charity patients," the same as me and 31,176 others.

Also see that Cincinnati is to have big league night ball games, which should give Ernie, Elmer, and some of the gang from L. U. No. 212 a chance to have hot-cakes with their "cawfee." Let's hope that they get plenty to hold 'em together, body and soul, until the "doggies" return.

And that just reminds me: I saw two immense "dinges" strolling along the avenue with a hot dog in each hand. Between bites they were singing "Git along, little doggie, git along."

But the height of sumpin' or other was when "Dutch" Kirsh, the beer wonder; pardon, amigo, I mean the boy wonder of L. U. No. 211, was seen doing up a hand line in the wrong direction. When it was explained that the customary and proper manner is to coil the rope with the sun, he calmly remarked, "I can't do that, the sun isn't out today." And yet there are still a few narrowbacks who call the linemen and "ex" linemen dumb.

At last we get a break with the weather and the crowds here for the Washington Birthday week-end were enormous. They started to arrive the morning before and by Sunday noon our famous old wooden-parade-grounds had the appearance of a day in mid-August. About 32 more crowds like

that and we will be almost caught up with the rent.

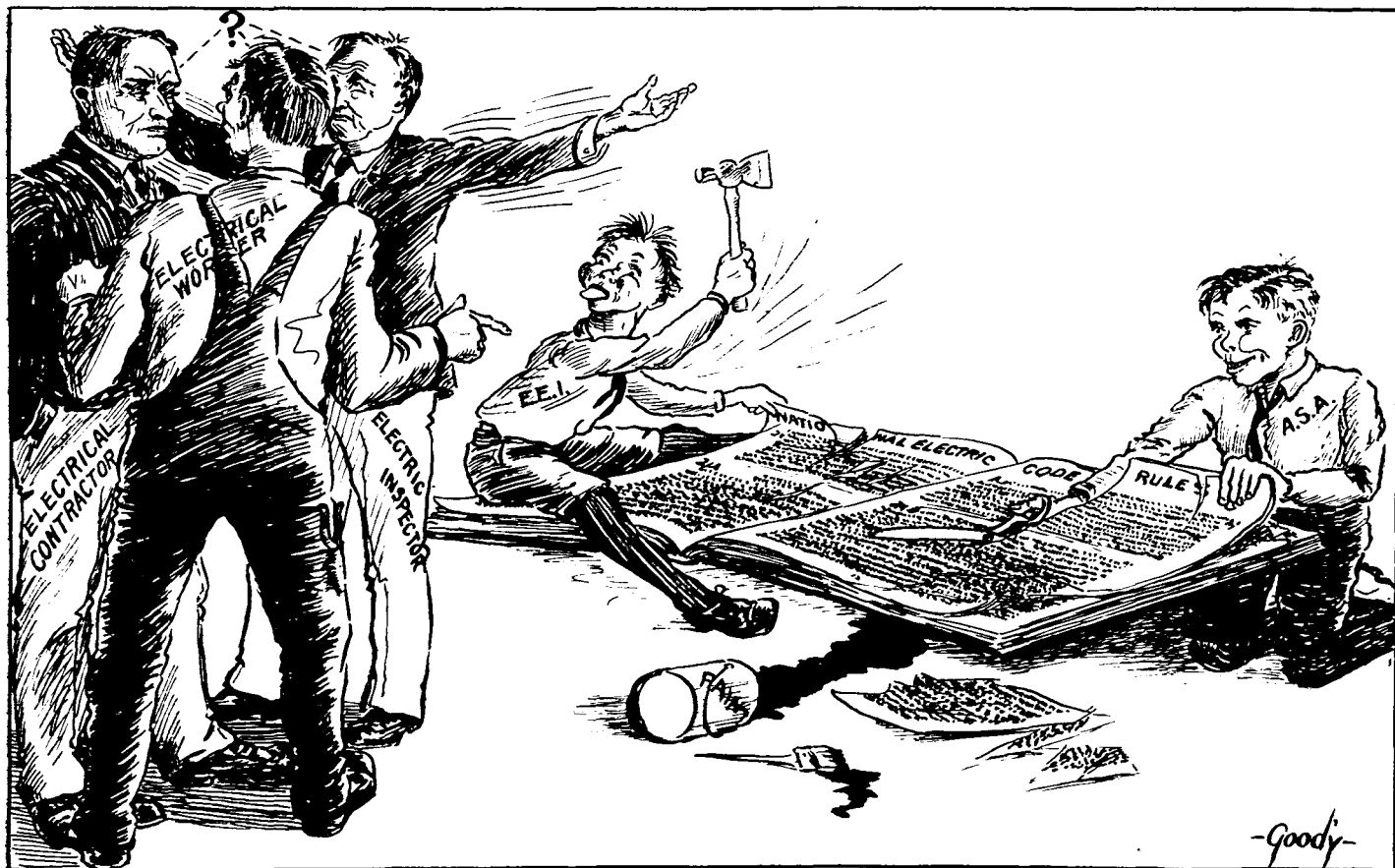
Since narrating about the Logansport-Decatur trip in zero weather, this question has arisen in my mind, "would I have the 'intestinal fortitude' to go back to 'the road' after all these years of civilization and comforts of a home?" Forinst, I would not want to trade the feather bed for a sand-house flop or the uncertainty of "carrying the banner." Nor would I care to exchange the Cogswell chair for a hard board laid cross-wise on the rods of some rattler. Neither would I trade the comforts of a warmly-heated home for the "deck" of a crack trans-continental flier in the none-too-clean compartment of some boxcar or reefer. Understand that the modern tourist uses his thumb to a good advantage but I don't like to ride in automobiles, even for a few blocks, so that mode of transportation for me is "out."

Last but not the least I wouldn't want to shed the mantle of staid respectability for the precarious existence of the boomer. There is a vast amount of satisfaction in being regarded by friends and neighbors as a respectable and reputable member of any community. And that is not to be taken as a slap at the members of the "floating fraternity" as that one-time huge organization did its share in making the labor movement what it is today.

So in the final analysis or summation I must frankly admit that unless the fates decree otherwise I shall sit "in the Evening by the Fireside" with a good book or listening to the radio and "let George do it." Or in the vernacular of the day, "I can't take it," and what's more important, "don't want it."

## BAD BOYS OF THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY

Drawn especially for Electrical Workers Journal by Harrie S. Goodwin





Loneliness was the curse of most boomers and in my opinion was the cause of the two-fisted drinking done by the old-timers. To stand at the intersection of two busy streets in any man's town and watch thousands of people passing by without knowing a single soul used to drive most of us half-screwy. So I will leave it to your imagination where we usually headed for, whether or not we had the customary thin dime for "entrance fee."

Was very sorry to learn of the death of Irwin V. Knott. Our friendship dates back a good many years and I believe that it is safe to state that Chicago will not seem the same with "Bosco" out of the picture. He leaves a host of friends and acquaintances, none of whom, to my knowledge and information, ever spoke ill of him.

BACHIE.

#### L. U. NO. 212, CINCINNATI, OHIO

Editor:

Looks like the Blue Eagle had another wing shot off in a decision rendered against the NRA in the Weirton case. Just another step in the direction the NRA has been going. The privileged class has made a one-way street out of it, all benefits and advantages going in one direction—to the wealthy. I don't know whether they think they are fooling anyone or not. People are a lot more intelligent today, thanks to the depression. An empty stomach makes an alert brain, or maybe they are just filled up, not with food, with bunk!

The good speakers on the radio have done much toward advising the public on matters of vital importance. I say good speakers, as there are others who are spreading propaganda in a subtle way with the intention of stemming the tide of public indignation against the outrages committed in the past.

I have to take my hat off to the Rev. Charles Coughlin. He's got something and he has proved it by being the leading force in beating the plan to tie up the United States with the World Court. That's just a starter. I'll bet the powers that be are gnashing their teeth, and don't be fooled, they really seem to be worried. You can tell that by reading between the lines and sometimes right on them.

Just recently I read where a man lost his mind after receiving a sum of money. He had been poor so long, he couldn't stand the strain of having money to spend and clothes to wear. That ought to be a good argument against Huey Long's share the wealth plan. He'll make lunatics out of them that people. Laying all jokes aside, a lot of us would like to be crazy that way.

Brother Herman Baude is at his home recovering from an injury to his back, received while at work at the Fisher Body Co. After spending several weeks at the hospital, he was removed to his home. Here's hoping you have a speedy recovery, Herman!

ELMER J. SCHENK.

#### L. U. NO. 245, TOLEDO, OHIO

Editor:

This article is for the purpose of informing 200-odd members of Local No. 245 as to what use is made of a building located at 912 Adams Street. You see, fellows, that is known as a meeting hall. A meeting hall is a place where groups of men meet for the purpose of discussing different subjects like the Townsend plan, or wages and conditions, for instance. At least that is what we use it for on the second and fourth Thursday nights of each month. Any of the 50 or 60 who attend regularly will gladly explain to you that we have not discontinued these meetings. But anyway, for those of you who simply can't see fit to participate in your own welfare

## SIDE GLANCES . . . . . By George Clark



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Courtesy Washington Daily News

"Boys, I want you to meet the man who is building this skyscraper."

and are not interested enough in your own working conditions to attend one of these meetings, let me enlighten you as to what goes on up there.

Floyd E. Schumaker is still our worthy president; Oliver Myers still knocks 'em dead as our business manager and financial secretary. I am still your recording secretary (when I am still). Your wage committee consists of the same three musketeers—Schumaker, Buchanan and Lee. Vice chairman is George Maiberger, and we pick out the two smallest men in the organization to guard the door, Nelson Tefft and Clyde Williams, so you wouldn't have any trouble crashing the door, should you care to come up some time.

Last spring, when you were so interested in getting that raise, you could find time to get down there as often as once a day, but now you are so busy spending that increase that you can't get there once a month. We are again negotiating a wage agreement to be presented to the company. Are you going to be there to take part in presenting your own working rules or are you going to let George do it? Is it of so little importance that you can depend upon the other fellow? If your wife won't let you come, bring her along. You'll find a nice waiting room and grille down stairs at Stone's, where she can wait for you and I'll join you after the meeting.

So that you members will not get confused and distribute your cigarettes and hospitality to one not worthy, I will mention those in the

various departments who do not carry a card in L. U. No. 245, and who still accept the raise got for them by your efforts, your time and your money, and expect still to be treated with respect by you. In the line department we have two of these. They are Kenneth Peterson and Clarence Deacon. The lamp and meter and transformer departments have none, while the underground department has one. That man is Frank Bay Miller. The garage department has two, John Peck and a man named Abele. If the stewards in other departments will supply me with the names of those in their respective divisions I will send them in for publication in the near future. If the officials of the company would take the same position that they took last year and refuse to grant any favors to those employees who were not represented by Local No. 245, then it would be good to mention these men as having no representation and then close the charter except to new employees. That would be the American method of dealing with men of this kind.

Brother B. D. Freeman is confined in a local hospital where a nervous condition sent him a few weeks ago, and Homer Wise, of Sylvania, is suffering a similar fate, being stricken suddenly on February 11. Jess Peck is hobbling around on crutches and will soon be among those present. Harold ("Hod") Miller is going around with sort of a challenge in his looks these last two weeks. A brand new, streamlined, 1935 model baby girl was left at his house. Mother and babe are

doing well. Got a cigar, papa? Scott Smith has a new Ford, but says the payments are so high that he can't buy a license for it. Get a hay-burner, Scott!

EDWARD E. DUKESHIRE.

### L. U. NO. 292, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Editor:

We have now had about two years of the present Democratic administration and its program—not only for ending the depression but for giving the American people a New Deal. What a fiasco, what a disappointment it has been so far! The great promise of the much heralded "New Deal" has dismally failed. Why?

One hesitates to credit the often-heard insinuation, that abysmal ignorance of the psychological and economic laws of social relations, incompetent short-sightedness, and a fatuously credulous belief that the wolves could be trusted with the care of the sheep, are the mental equipment—or lack of mental equipment—responsible for this failure.

Nor does one wish to accept the charge that the failure is due to a combination of that weakness, which is easily led away by persuasion and the cowardice which fears to take drastic measures against strongly entrenched opposition.

And yet the alternative would seem to be to accept that other criticism—that the people had been deliberately "sold out" to the big financial interests, the international bankers, i. e., that the Democratic Party is a tool of those same financial interests the same as the Republican Party, and is being manipulated, through an apparent system of reform measures, to betray the American people into a more abject slavery to those powers of wealth and greed.

This is an extremely harsh indictment, and, if it stands without successful refutation, the Democratic Party is riding for a fall.

Perhaps there is some other explanation. If not, then this indictment will stand, vindicated by the facts, unless there is a very drastic change of front on the part of the party now in power.

What is the basis for these insinuations and criticisms? The issuance of currency and the control of credit have been left in the hands of the banking interests instead of being restored to the hands of the government.

The Federal Reserve Banks have been left as privately owned and operated institutions, instead of being put under government ownership and government control.

The financing of the various government projects for the relief of the depression has been, and is still being, done by the issuance of enormous amounts of interest-bearing bonds, instead of by the issuance of non-interest-bearing treasury notes.

The enormous army of debtors, created by the various loan policies of the government (Home Loan, Farm Loan, etc.) have been turned over to the tender mercies of the banking interests.

Up to now the influence of the banking interests has been able to prevent the payment of the soldiers' bonus. The banks seem to be "getting the breaks."

In the administration of the codes, many who were antagonistic or who because of their background and affiliations, were bound to interpret the codes in the interests of themselves and their class, were placed in key positions, with the result that the codes have frequently been used to work considerable injustice upon the workers and the small business man. In this the worker has been hit the hardest, for there has been a material

### BOSCO

By A. W. B., L. U. No. 9

The man is gone, but his spirit lingers,  
We stood, heads bared, with entwined fingers  
To mourn that ripping, roaring, forceful man  
Whom all of us could understand.  
Bosco, where'er you rest you can be sure  
Your kindly acts will long endure.  
For all of us do well recall  
Your fairness to both great and small.

rise in prices without a corresponding rise in wages, resulting in a comparative lowering of the standards of living of the workers.

The infamous ERA projects are wrecking the conditions of organized labor and pauperizing American labor generally.

And now as a more direct and patent slap in the face for labor comes the proposal for a \$15-a-month old age pension and a \$50-a-month average wage.

Is it surprising that there is skepticism as to the sincerity of purpose in the sponsorship of the New Deal? Is this the way that something is being done for the "forgotten man"?

W. WAPLES.

### L. U. NO. 303, ST. CATHARINES, ONT.

Editor:

When we look back over all the years that have passed since the writing of the United States Constitution, it is tragic that so few people ever realized the power in their own hands. We were always reminded that it was the men of finance who understood these or those things. And what a power this right to coin and regulate money is! That is what is wrong with all our business, the right is in the wrong place—has been "swiped" from the people and placed in the hands of the big financial sharks. They, in turn, could stop and start a boom or a depression. How awful! Can we understand the magnitude of it? Like many millions, your scribe was one who cheered President Roosevelt when he said he would "drive the money changers from the temple." What significant words and what a task! We recall someone else who temporarily did chase the money changers from the temple. But the schemers came back and got rid of him. But today we have millions who are out to see that this is done and done right.

You will say that the Supreme Court's decision is all tied up in legal phrases and that while in essence they did interpret the Constitution, they did scrap some entanglements around it. Well, we will see how all that turns out. Anyway, the Constitution has been sustained (as it should have been) and in this day of radio and deep thinking, despite the apathy all around, we can look for greater development.

In passing, would like to add that only last year our Canadian government gave away to a private corporation, known as the Bank of Canada, the right to coin and regulate money. Think of it, in this day when all the world is groaning under this curse! Truly the ways of some men are off of the right path. Yes, you folks have it written in your own laws that it is your own right. Think of it, your own! We in other parts have the same problems and as time goes on honest and fearless men will explain the way out. In the meantime, keep thinking.

THOS. W. DEALY.

### L. U. NO. 309, EAST ST. LOUIS, ILL.

Editor:

Just by way of bringing it to the attention of the members of our local union, I hereby submit names of members of Local Union No. 309 who have been selected to serve in various capacities. Without the slightest intention of boasting, I feel that this indicates a mark of confidence in our members.

E. H. Taylor—served as an officer of the Tri-City Trades Council until physical ailments caused him to have to cease activities.

William Blankenship—secretary of the Collinsville Trades Council.

George Fischer—president of the building trades council at Belleville.

F. R. Rauch—secretary of the East St. Louis Central Trades and Labor Union and associate certifying officer in the relief office at East St. Louis.

A. L. Wegener—president of the East St. Louis Central Trades and Labor Union, secretary of the board of business agents and a member of the transient service bureau.

E. P. Doyle—member of the electrical commission at East St. Louis.

C. M. Brown—city electrical inspector at East St. Louis.

B. S. Reid—a member of the county committee governing the administration of relief.

A. B. Touchette—a member of the police board of East St. Louis.

George Diehl—a detective on the East St. Louis police force.

M. Kehoe—a member of the city council of Caseyville, Ill.

To some of our members it may seem that this is of no importance; however, many contacts are made in this way and many times certain information is made available which makes it possible to start work on some of the problems of organized labor before they become more or less acute.

Most of these offices are gratis jobs and are simply accepted because of a desire to do good.  
A. L. WEGENER.

### L. U. NO. 326, LAWRENCE AND LOWELL, MASS.

Editor:

It is quite safe to say that the combined Local No. 326, of Lawrence and Lowell, has made as much, if not more, progress than any other local in the Brotherhood. Under the leadership of "Charlie" Keaveney, our International Vice President, with the able assistance of "Bobby" Watts, secretary-treasurer of the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor, we have expectations of having one of the strongest locals in the Brotherhood.

While working conditions are not quite perfect, they cannot be considered altogether imperfect. A few of the conditions the company conceded to the union are: Time and one-half for all but "planned overtime," for which all men must receive 24 hours notice; six days' sick leave each year; two men working on primary wires at all times. Primary wire is to include all wire carrying over 300 volts. There has been some discussion about the power plant operators' pay, but those who belong to the union can rest assured that the union and its officers will do their utmost to aid them in getting better working conditions and a reasonable pay increase. For those who have deserted us we have nothing but the most profound sympathy.

Since the conception of our joint unions it has been the aim of the union to make the company a "closed shop" and with a little co-operation and patience on the part of the members it should not be a very difficult undertaking.

If any mixed local would like to secure a copy of all working and wage agreements they can secure an agreement copy by writing to Business Manager J. F. O'Neill, in care of Local No. 326. If you do request one, please enclose a copy of your own present working conditions and wage agreements. We hope that the various locals will answer this request and send us their working conditions and wages.

In conclusion, we wish to express our sincere thanks to our International Vice President, Charles B. Keaveney, who gave our union so much help "in our hour of need."

JOHN DEAN.

#### L. U. NO. 353, TORONTO, ONT.

Editor:

In the February JOURNAL the drawing by A. G. Spaulding re the great social problem, showing the employment age limit at 45 years with a gap of 20 years stretching between the employment age limit and the old age pension at 65 years, is deserving of deep consideration and study by all. I believe the artist was very conservative in placing the limit at 45 years. In this stream-lined age, it is becoming harder each year to place men on a job who have been working around town for 10 or 12 years.

In looking over some of the old guard, down at the office the other day while listening to their stories of other days, and of pals, many of whom have made that last great cut-over, brought back to me a much-discussed question around here—the placing in work of members who, while not classed as old, are no longer young. Our advances toward better working conditions, the recognition by law of our right to organize and make agreements, is due to the untiring efforts of these same men. Their knowledge of union principles, working by-laws and trade agreements, backed by mature judgment, is a valuable asset to our organization. They must not be shoved into discard by the twin evils, speed and production. Next issue we will follow up with suggestions as to the bridging of the gulf which exists between the ages of 45 and 65.

We now hand over to the examining board for report.

Apprentice training by P. Elsworth, chairman of Local No. 353, examining board. Classes for electrical workers are being held at the Central Technical School on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. On Wednesday evenings, blue print reading and electrical estimating are taken up, and on Saturday mornings, lead cable splicing and preparation of cable ends for pot heads.

Considerable interest is taken in these classes as shown by the regular attendance. The need for proper training of apprentices is becoming more and more evident.

Under the Ontario Apprenticeship Act the number of new men entering the trade will be controlled and given the utmost in training.

The average age of the members in our local is increasing, and it is necessary to carry on by taking in a certain number of apprentices.

If the local looks after all apprentices entering the trade, surely in a few years' time there will be few electricians unorganized.

In April, 1933, 27 fourth-year apprentices wrote the examination as required by the examining board for apprentices, and 10 passed. In December, 1933, 21 wrote and six passed. In June, 1934, 25 wrote and eight passed. The last examination was held on December 15, 1934.

In the last two years 24 apprentices have passed the examination, and those registered under the Ontario Apprenticeship Act have been issued diplomas.

On the fourth Thursday of each month we are having talks on electrical subjects, using lantern slides. November 22, 1934, Mr.

Schaeffer, of Westinghouse Co., gave a very interesting talk and on January 24, 1935, Mr. Stewart, of General Electric Co., showed some very interesting slides of electrical apparatus.

F. AINSWORTH.

#### L. U. NO. 418, PASADENA, CALIF.

Editor:

Despite the fact that Pasadena's light department is maintaining a high standing among the highly successful publicly owned utilities of the United States, wages for its workers are being held at an unjustifiably low level.

The month of November, 1934, rolled up a gross profit of \$64,268, official reports show. Now the workers who helped to make this possible are wondering just why public officials here are so insistent on maintaining low wages, higher rates than justifiable and diverting the resulting profits to other projects outside of the department. There is no doubt much good has been done by the expenditure of some of these profits, yet our Brothers feel that they should first receive a just wage to pass along to local merchants, etc. After all there is only one cause of depressions, disproportionate wages, and, with profits running up to \$600,000 a year, surely there's no good reason why such a course should be followed.

Perhaps, as many of us feel, we're to blame, for too many times we sit back and wait for something to happen or hope something will when only the best efforts of everyone will bring about that which we hope for. We won't do things for ourselves, won't attend meetings, find fault with officers and committees; so miserly we won't spend a dollar to save two; we join a union on somebody's plea or insistence, pay a few months' dues and somehow feel that should end our troubles, little realizing that we take on the added responsibilities of helping others to get their share of the good things of life along with ours and of shouldering part of the other fellow's burden to help him over the rough spots.

Belonging to a union means sacrifices of time, money and sometimes spirit. The union man at heart gives all of these willingly, knowing that is the only way progress can be made.

Now with that off my chest I'll ramble a little bit. Sales of electrical appliances increased 137 per cent the past four years with a 5-cent rate.

I visited Boulder Dam early in January and found even its great size completely dwarfed by the immensity of its surroundings.

Electricity is being used in pest control work in California's vineyards, various colored lamps surrounded by charged shields attract and kill injurious insects. Too bad we can't use them on other public enemies.

South Pasadena is laying plans for a municipal light plant.

Electrical engineers at the California Institute of Technology here have built and used a new type of apparatus for measuring high potentials ranging from 500,000 to 1,000,000 volts.

It is known as an arcless sphere-gap volt meter, weighs about 1,000 pounds and consists mainly of two 300-pound cast-aluminum spheres, one stationary, the other suspended and delicately balanced, the movement of which toward the other lifts a pan in which tiny weights are placed to oppose its movement.

In action the spheres are placed one meter apart, the voltage to be measured is applied, setting up an attraction between the spheres. From the amount of weight placed in the pan to keep the movable sphere in its one meter setting is determined the voltage.

This apparatus does not require corrections for temperature, humidity or barometric conditions as do other instruments used to measure high voltage and has an accuracy of better than 99 per cent. Previous methods gave an error of 10 per cent.

The new method is expected to become a primary standard in measuring high potentials.

H. W. HUNEVEN.

#### L. U. NO. 500, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Editor:

We guess that older Brother member idea we suggested last month was read by nearly all Brothers and so now we suggest going forward with that idea. Why not? Meeting could easily be finished rapidly and then have a smoker for those older Brothers and all the rest. This, however, is mentioned as a suggestion. So, let's give it some thought.

Brother Rock, of Station B, doesn't need an introduction, we believe. We all know him, as he attends nearly, if not every meeting, and is really interested in Local 500. So this month Brother Rock says:

"Three months ago the union men in the plants, if placed end to end, would hardly have reached out the door of an old-fashioned cobbler's shop. But times have changed, and now the same thing would apply to the non-union men in the plants. Today, if you should walk into Station B and point to any man at random, the chances are just three to one that you have picked out a union man. All of which means that the men have come forward on the side of their own and their fellowmen's interest, and comparatively speaking, we are proud of our record."

"The fur-plated, feather-lined monkey wrench goes to Brother Witter for the outstanding news item of the month. We all know that a squirrel will bite a man, and men have been known to bite squirrels when they were properly cooked and seasoned, but for a man to bite a real live squirrel is, we think, a rare thing. That, we are told, is just what Brother Witter did, and all because the rodent was trying to build a nest in his hair. That must have happened years ago when Brother Witter had hair enough to attract a nesting squirrel."

Well, Brother Rock is right in the first part of his letter, and as we have stated in a previous letter, we of Local No. 500 are mighty glad, and should encourage more non-members at the electric distribution plant to "sign up." Of course, it is of interest to know that a new face "pops" up quite often. Brother Rock mentions a "fur-plated monkey wrench"? We haven't ever seen one, but there are so many things we never have seen that it's possible we missed it. We never have found the left-handed monkey wrench or that rubber arm the linemen so often mention.

We are at sea on that squirrel question or rather statement that is mentioned in our Brother's letter. We would have liked, however, to have been present with a kodak when Brother Witter and the squirrel had it out. The mention, however, gives yours truly the shudders, when we think of the narrow escapes we have had while in the woods. We would like to hear Brother Witter's own story on that.

We have a little ego and are proud to have noticed that our column last month was mentioned by the Editor as one of the letters to be read. We can't take all the honor for that and having lost about three nights sleep, wondering whether "to" or "not to"; the "to's" have it, so right here and now, we the press secretary, inc., want to thank Brother Carlson for his effort in that column. So adios until next month.

FOWLER.



# L. U. NO. 537, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

Editor:

Sunday, January 27, a get-together was held at the home of Jerry Tyler, in Oakland, in honor of his birthday. We all had a fine time. Mrs. Tyler, ably assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Whitbeck, served up a 20-pound gobbler with all the trimmings. Everyone had more than enough, and Bill Smart polished off the skeleton just to show he could do it.

I enclose a snapshot of the Brothers present, and hope to see it reproduced in the JOURNAL. In the picture are J. L. Alexander, 1899, L. U. No. 66; Jack Steele, 1894, L. U. No. 2; Charley Ross, 1893, L. U. No. 9; Jack Kennard, 1901, L. U. No. 283; skip the next one, then Frank Nelson, 1900, L. U. No. 151; Walter Horst, 1902, L. U. No. 61; Johnny J. Kelly, 1910, L. U. No. 44.

Down in front we find three more of the old guard, Telley Brasseur, 1896, L. U. No. 17; Bill Smart, 1900, L. U. No. 66, and last but not least, Jerry Tyler himself, 1893, L. U. 57. These read left to right, and the figures are the year of initiation and the local entered.

After dinner we had a pow-wow. Charley Ross got drunk on Tom and Jerries and found out afterward they had no alcohol in them. Jerry Tyler danced a jig. About 7:30 o'clock Jerry got a little tired and was put—I mean he went to bed. We had a toast to Brother Johnny Gates, of Chicago, and one to Brother Toothacher, of Cleveland. Also present were Brothers Joe Soares, 1900, L. U. No. 295; Joe Gillette, 1900, L. U. No. 213, and A. Gorman, 1902, L. U. No. 335. D. H. TRUAX.

# L. U. NO. 558, FLORENCE, ALA.

Editor:

Regular meeting of L. U. No. 558 held January 18 with President Stutts in the chair; a good meeting with interesting reports from delegates to TVA Workers' Council and the Tri-Cities Central Labor Union, also Business Agent Jack Hans.

Brother John Sharp and crew are in Dayton, Tenn., installing a sub-station, duplicate of one just finished at Pulaski, Ala.

Attended a labor educational institute, conducted at Joe Wheeler Dam, Sunday, January 27. George Gooze, southern representative of the A. F. of L., held sway in the first session. His subject was "The Roots of the Depression, and Its Effect upon Workers." All I can say is, let George do it and it's done!

Then came the panel jury under the leadership of E. B. Shultz, associate director of labor relations, TVA, and I am here to state I would hate to have this jury try me, if I were guilty and had an idea of being acquitted in mind. The discussion was "Labor and Recovery." Sitting on this panel were Dr. Floyd W. Reeves, director of personnel, TVA, Knoxville; George Gooze, southern representative, American Federation of Labor; E. E. McDaniels, representative, American Federation of Labor; N. D. Huff, TVA; Walter Berry, TVA; Roy Boyd, TVA; Prof. Ben Baldwin, State Teachers College, Florence, Ala., and John Graham, TVA Workers' Council. Dr. Reeves stole the show with his address, held in the evening, and his subject, "The TVA's Contribution to Recovery."

It surely looks good to see our representatives here in person, and you can bet they are going to let the valley know they are here. We were all busy, but George Gooze was kept busy by the audience answering questions, and if he can't answer them the answer must be unknown.



Guests at the Party For Brother Jerry Tyler, L. U. No. 537.

Yes, if at any time any local needs a quartet, we have a new one, consisting of Gooze, Berry, McDaniels and Shultz. Booking agent, Willard Hayes, TVA recreational director.

Coy E. Fulton handled the introductions in a very able manner. Coy is a go-getter. When I met Coy he had an armful of rugs. Well, I found out why. It cost me two bucks to gain the knowledge. A textile strike of 1934, at Cherokee Mills, Knoxville, Tenn., resulted in six employees not being taken back. A suggestion by Miss L. Thornburg to C. C. Killen, labor co-ordinator for the TVA, as to the possibility of the manufacture of hand-woven rugs, resulted in a hand loom being set up, an old farm house rented and operations started. Now they have orders enough to keep going part time, one order coming from the TVA school for all its rugs, curtains and draperies, and I think Fulton will sell a rug to every union man he contacts. The material used is waste from motor-driven looms. JOHN GRAHAM.

# L. U. NO. 561, MONTREAL, QUE.

Editor:

The international labor movement on the Canadian railroads has suffered an irreparable loss by the death of Brother Frank McKenna, vice president of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of America, who passed away February 17, after a short illness.

Brother McKenna was a vice president of the B. R. C. of A. for the past 20 years and was chairman of the Carmen's C. P. R. Joint Protective Board for the past 25 years. He was also vice president of Division No. 4, R. E. D., A. F. of L.

In addition to holding the above offices he was also chairman of the C. P. R. Federated Trades and in that capacity, by his devotion and efficient application to his duties, won the high esteem of the rank and file of the affiliated organizations.

The funeral, which was held on February 20, was impressive, over 3,600 persons attending. Amongst these were representatives from every railroad organization and other outside organizations, many C. P. R. and C. N. R. officials and a number of other prominent people of political, business and private life. One hundred and thirteen floral tributes were received from various parts of Canada and the United States, amongst these were some from the Honorable R. B. Bennett, Prime Minister of Canada, and E. W. Beatty, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and one from our local union.

The C. P. R. management, out of respect for the deceased, closed down the Angus Shops and operated the running points with skeleton crews, on February 20, in order to give an opportunity to the rank and file to attend the funeral.

We fully appreciate the loss of such an efficient officer.

Beginning January 7 a considerable number of furloughed employees of the Canadian Pacific Railway, Angus Shops car department, were taken back into the service after a lengthy layoff. Amongst these are a number of electrical workers, mostly former members of the local union, who, owing to the lengthy and indefinite period of unemployment, were compelled to drop their membership. In view of this and in consideration of a number of non-members throughout the various departments on this property who have expressed their willingness to be inducted into membership provided that the initiation fee was within their means to do so, we applied for and have been granted permission to hold our charter open for a three-month period, beginning March 1 to May 31, 1935, with

an attractively low initiation fee as a special inducement to these men. There are also a few no-bills in our jurisdiction on the Canadian National Railway who hinder us from having a 100 per cent organization on this property. We will have the valuable assistance of General Chairmen L. A. McEwan and H. Russell throughout the campaign and we respectively urge every member of our local union to co-operate with their local shop chairman in our endeavor to bring the campaign to a successful conclusion.

A substantial improvement of the position of the I. B. E. W. on the Canadian National Railway Lines is reflected in the C. N. R. System Federation officers' report, at their convention in Toronto, September 28, 1934, covering the period April 1, 1930, to September 1, 1934. The report is as follows:

On April 1, 1930, at the last convention, the membership was reported as 10,965 which was made up as follows:

|                           |       |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Machinists .....          | 2,240 |
| Carmen .....              | 6,650 |
| Boilermakers .....        | 900   |
| Blacksmiths .....         | 504   |
| Pipefitters .....         | 340   |
| Electricians .....        | 132   |
| Sheet Metal Workers ..... | 130   |

Since April 1, 1930, the membership has been greatly decreased due to the heavy reductions that have taken place from time to time due principally to the falling off in traffic and the reduced revenue of the company. However, we are able to report at this time of having a membership of 5,709 which is made up of the following crafts:

|                           |       |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Carmen .....              | 3,000 |
| Machinists .....          | 1,400 |
| Boilermakers .....        | 500   |
| Blacksmiths .....         | 307   |
| Pipefitters .....         | 188   |
| Electricians .....        | 201   |
| Sheet Metal Workers ..... | 71    |
| Moulders .....            | 42    |

A notable feature of the report, of paramount interest to our membership, is that while other crafts were unfortunate in losing upwards of about 50 per cent of their membership due to the heavy reductions that have taken place during the period 1930 to 1934, we were fortunate in being less affected by staff reductions. This, with the early restoration of our laid-off members to the service again and the activities of General Chairman L. A. McEwan in co-operation with the local shop committees throughout the entire system were, no doubt, the factors which enabled us to augment our membership from 132 to 201 during the four worst years of the so-called depression.

C. GALLAGHER.

## Annual Statement of Electrical Workers' Benefit Association

In compliance with the requirements of the Fraternal Act of various states, we are publishing below information contained in the annual statement of the Electrical Workers' Benefit Association for the year ending December 31, 1934:

Ledger Assets December 31, 1933..... \$4,013,605.64

### INCOME

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Membership, Admission and Reinstatement Fees..... | \$540,198.90 |
| Interest, Mortgage Loans.....                     | 29,924.23    |
| Interest, Collateral Loans.....                   | 1,977.15     |
| Interest on Bonds and Dividends on Stocks.....    | 118,101.39   |
| Rents.....  | 33,464.73    |
| Refund Insurance Premium.....                     | 30.35        |
| Refund Alarm Charge.....                          | 2.00         |
| Commission.....                                   | 200.00       |
| Miscellaneous Refunds.....                        | 1,128.38     |
| Exchange.....                                     | 24.83        |
| Profit on Sale or Maturity of Ledger Assets.....  | 2,347.96     |

Total Income..... 727,399.92

Total ..... \$4,741,005.56

### DISBURSEMENTS

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Death Claims.....                                 | \$367,550.00 |
| Salaries of Trustees.....                         | 9.00         |
| Salaries of Employees.....                        | 39,796.90    |
| Insurance Department Fees.....                    | 202.00       |
| Rent.....   | 5,400.00     |
| Advertising, Printing and Stationery.....         | 1,016.50     |
| Postage.....                                      | 744.05       |
| Bond Premium.....                                 | 412.50       |
| Publications.....                                 | 193.00       |
| Expense Supreme Lodge Meeting.....                | 671.64       |
| Legal Expense.....                                | 480.00       |
| Notary Fees.....                                  | 4.50         |
| Bond Commission.....                              | 200.00       |
| Taxes, Repairs, etc., R. E.....                   | 22,897.64    |
| Personal Taxes.....                               | 180.00       |
| Insurance Premium.....                            | 3,292.59     |
| Community Chest.....                              | 150.00       |
| Auditing.....                                     | 750.00       |
| Federal Tax.....                                  | 18.50        |
| Loss.....   | 4,501.34     |
| Decrease Adjustment Book Value Ledger Assets..... | 6,249.00     |
| Miscellaneous.....                                | 312.50       |

Total Disbursements..... 455,031.66

Balance, Ledger Assets December 31, 1934..... \$4,285,973.90

### LEDGER ASSETS

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Book Value Real Estate.....            | \$500,036.88 |
| Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....     | 579,235.02   |
| Collateral Loans.....                  | 17,809.96    |
| Book Value of Bonds.....               | 2,711,189.57 |
| Book Value of Stocks.....              | 169,315.00   |
| Deposits in banks not on interest..... | 308,032.62   |
| Bills Receivable.....                  | 354.85       |

Total Ledger Assets..... \$4,285,973.90

### NON-LEDGER ASSETS

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Interest due and accrued on Mortgages.....        | \$15,091.12 |
| Interest due and accrued on Collateral Loans..... | 177.34      |
| Interest due and accrued on Bonds.....            | 31,644.38   |
| Prepaid Insurance.....                            | 2,513.93    |
|   | 49,426.77   |

Gross Assets..... \$4,335,400.67

Less Assets Not Admitted:

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Book Value Real Estate over Market Value..... | \$18,016.29 |
| Book Value of Bonds over Amortized Value..... | 479,548.18  |
| Book Value of Stocks over Market Value.....   | 106,455.00  |

604,019.47

Total Admitted Assets..... \$3,731,381.20

### LIABILITIES

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Death Claims due and unpaid.....   | \$27,258.00 |
| Death Claims incurred in current year and not reported until following year..... | 13,825.00   |
| Advance Assessments.....   | 2,516.40    |

Total Liabilities..... \$43,599.40

### EXHIBIT OF CERTIFICATES

|  | Number | Amount          |
|--|--------|-----------------|
| Benefit certificates in force December 31, 1933.....                   | 47,755 | \$42,019,975.00 |
| Benefit certificates written during the year.....                      | 10,046 |                 |
| Benefit certificates revived during the year.....                      | 61     | 54,425.00       |
| Benefit certificates increased during the year.....                    |        | 1,156,400.00    |
| Total.....   | 56,862 | \$43,230,800.00 |
| Deduct terminated, decreased or transferred during the year.....       | 4,915  | 1,540,550.00    |
| Total benefit certificates in force December 31, 1934.....             | 52,947 | \$41,690,250.00 |
| Benefit certificates terminated by death reported during the year..... | 425    | 374,425.00      |
| Benefit certificates terminated by lapse reported during the year..... | 4,490  | 1,166,125.00    |

### EXHIBIT OF DEATH CLAIMS

|  |     |              |
|--|-----|--------------|
| Claims unpaid December 31, 1933.....           | 26  | \$20,383.00  |
| Claims reported during the year.....           | 425 | 374,425.00   |
| Totals.....                                    | 451 | \$394,808.00 |
| Claims paid during the year.....               | 375 | 367,550.00   |
| Balance.....                                   | 76  | \$27,258.00  |
| Claims rejected during the year.....           | 42  |              |
| Claims unpaid December 31 of current year..... | 34  | \$27,258.00  |

### L. U. NO. 568, MONTREAL, CAN. Editor:

The depression has given a guy a whole lot of time for extra reading between breakfast and newspaper times and I have been taking advantage of this extra leisure to review my very incomplete collection of WORKERS magazines. I have come to the June number of 1925 and it contains a very interesting article entitled: "Mentioning That Rainy Day." The writer of that article must have possessed a great sense of prognostication and foresight to guess with such accuracy in 1925 what would happen today. Part of the article read as follows:

"When is the big break in this mild prosperity going to come? Just when is the mercury of industry going to start descending to the cold levels of depression or even to

the zero hour of panic? Panics are inevitable. It will descend again and soon. This is not a guess but a prediction based on past experience. In the last 110 years of the nation's history business has experienced 15 major crises." On the opposite page we have roughly charted these eras of depression. (And I think the Editor would do well to reprint the chart.) We want you to notice (1) their frequency, (2) their regular rhythm after 1903 and the short intervals between them. Would there have been another panic in 1916 to 1917 if war had not absorbed our surplus production? At any rate we headed straight for another panic.

It proved to be true all right. Further, it says:

"What can we do in June, 1925, to soften the blow that is going to fall in June, 1927,

or soon thereafter? Luckily, there are two things which can be done—save and organize."

I wish I had followed this advice, as in 1925 it was possible to save a bit. Here in Montreal work is not very plentiful, but snow is very plentiful and some of the Brothers have found employment shoveling snow for the city and I have seen one Brother driving an old pair of horses and holding the reins as tight as a guy-wire going up-grade—but one thing I have not seen here, and that is what I saw in Bangor, Maine, many years ago. Snow shovelers with socks on their hands and over their coat sleeves and bare thumbs.

What is also plentiful in Montreal at the present time is carnival queens and sporting queens. Every sporting association has one, and they are importing some from other places. It is very refreshing for an old man

to see these young ladies perambulating in the lobbies of our large hotels, garbed in white satin uniforms and carrying under their arms snowshoes that never touch the snow. Although their uniforms are more baggy at the knee and above the knee than the one piece uniform described by Bachie, one can't help but feel a bit unnecessary to see these young queens glide over the ball-room floor of the Mont Royal Hotel in the arms of their male effemina.

The law in Montreal is very particular. It is lawful for five or six young students to carry one of those queens on their shoulders or above their heads, but it is against the law for one alone to carry one of these queens. And a poor yap—a rich one rather—from Atlantic City has been arrested for trying to carry one of those queens in his arms alone and save a trip to the elevator upstairs. Bachie, if you meet that fellow, ask him how far it is from Mont Royal Hotel to the police station. **JOE PIT.**

#### L. U. NO. 569, SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

Editor:

Well, boys, here's an item from the 1935 "Exposition City." Now don't get all primed and grab your tools and beat it to California, as we have done little work at the fair grounds yet. You know we had one here in 1915 and all of those buildings are nearly completed in remodeling. We still have men out of work but have hopes of getting them at work in the near future.

Through the efforts and hard work of our business agent, who is a livewire and has carried us through the hardest of the depression, we now have a city license law that has helped to build up our local and is protecting us here from the drifters, of which we sure have a plenty.

To some of the boys formerly of Local No. 569 we say howdy, and fishing is still good for everyone except our delicate business agent. Will ring off this time and write again of the fair. **CHAS. F. IDDINGS.**

#### L. U. NO. 584, TULSA, OKLA.

Editor:

Brother Buck Berry, of L. U. No. 1002, lost his wife the past month and I wish to take this opportunity to extend to him and his family the sympathy of the members of L. U. No. 584.

At present we have two things to look forward to in Tulsa. It won't be long until the grass is green, and our code hearing has finally been set for March 15. It seemed as if every conceivable delay interfered with the setting of this date, the last one being a mistake made by the Western Union in a telegram, setting the date at the 15th in place of the 5th, causing a delay of 10 days more. But we have high hopes for the future and believe that much good can be accomplished.

It may be of interest to members who have been in Tulsa in the past to hear of the burning of the old Brady Hotel. I believe the annex was almost completely destroyed and the new part damaged. The old timers tell me this is one of the old land marks, being built in the wigwam era.

Also, W. R. ("Bill") Henson is spending most of his time in the county jail at present (in his official capacity of inside jailer). Bill is on duty from 7 p. m. till 7 a. m., dispensing pills and iodine and keeping law and order in the tanks. **R. E. CLARK.**

#### L. U. NO. 647, ATLANTA, GA.

Editor:

Last summer several members of Local No. 253, at Birmingham, Ala., together with international Vice President G. X. Barker and Thomas Elder, business manager of L. U. No.

84, gave generously of their time and efforts to organize a radio local in Atlanta, Ga. On the morning of August 25, Radio Local No. 647 was organized with a membership consisting of the operators and engineers from three of the four radio stations in the Atlanta area.

From the very first, the present membership went into the organization whole-heartedly and presented their case in a peaceful, quiet manner to the managers of the Atlanta stations. Affairs seemed to move slowly at first, but the operators at one of the stations have already received raises in pay of from 10 to 30 per cent as a result of the efforts of the I. B. E. W. to get a contract accepted by the manager. It will be only a matter of a few weeks before Local No. 647 can report some real progress towards obtaining the working conditions for which we have asked.

We believe that the radio operators not at present members of the I. B. E. W. would do well to organize, for the good fellowship which has grown up between the members of the Atlanta radio stations and the added feeling of security which membership in the organization has given us are alone well worth all the time we have devoted to the I. B. E. W. May we also say that we believe that in view of the fact that there is still plenty of room for organization in the southeast, a person who could devote his full time to radio organization work in this area would be of great benefit to the I. B. E. W. What is the opinion of the other radio locals on this matter?

**M. A. HONNELL,**  
Recording Secretary.

#### L. U. NO. 723, FORT WAYNE, IND.

Editor:

A public works improvement program amounting to \$22,276,351 was submitted to state PWA officials at Indianapolis last week.

Public improvements submitted for government approval include a varied assortment of projects ranging from a sewage disposal plant and an adequate sewer system (which is the outstanding intended improvement outlined by the city) to cost \$4,800,000.

However, the projects that hold our interest are those anticipated in the city light department, improvements of the distribution system which would include the following projects:

Voltage regulating equipment at a cost of \$125,000.

Elimination of down town overhead construction, and creation of underground system at a cost of \$243,000.

Downtown sub-station, and improving down town overhead at a cost of \$142,000.

General distribution improvements at a cost of \$197,000.

Second distribution bus to improve reliability of system to cost \$75,000.

Installation of a new boiler to cost \$216,000.

The total improvements for the city light and power works amount to \$998,000.

Needless to say these improvements are essential, the outside plant has been very much neglected for a period of over four years, and goodness only knows, our members can readily absorb these intended projects, so we are feeling optimistic.

We mustn't forget a few words on behalf of our telephone working Brothers, who have been with us for almost 18 months.

The accomplishments in the way of wage increases, and general working conditions (with hearty thanks to the telephone company executives for their co-operation and cordial treatment extended to our members who met with them from time to time) have been very gratifying.

An officer of our local who is held in high

esteem by our members, was talking to the writer just recently, and the topic happened to be "The Advancement in Wages and Conditions Secured Through Organizing." With a jubilant attitude and expression the Brother officer said: "I never saw such smooth, sane, co-operativeness, accomplish such remarkable progressive conditions combined with pleasing wage increases, during my years of experience (which are many) with organized labor."

May the unorganized workers who have read the last paragraph catch the moral contained in those few words, and decide right now that organized labor is the only solution to labor's problems.

In conclusion, we trust our worthy critic of Waterloo, in the "Tall Corn State," will be more consoled with our "Home Town" news. **W. H. LEWIS.**

#### L. U. NO. 734, NORFOLK, VA.

Editor:

If any of you Brothers read Liberty, I will call your attention to the editorial in the issue of March 2, 1935. I wish to make a few comments on Mr. MacFadden's observations of the relationship between capital and labor.

In the first place, Mr. MacFadden does not give labor credit for having much intelligence. I quote from the first paragraph: "It would not be so humorous if they (labor) knew that ultimately they (labor) will have to pay the extra bills that business will have to assume due to government tinkering." Of course, labor will have to pay. Labor has always paid the bills of business (which is capital) and always will, so why should not labor demand of business wages high enough to pay the bills of business with enough left over for a fair living?

Mr. MacFadden goes on to state that:

"Whenever business is allowed full swing, capital is encouraged, confidence in the future mounts to a high water mark, money is invested freely, and wages are gradually increased."

Yes, Mr. MacFadden is right, they do increase wages gradually. Business fights every increase in wages, no matter how small, and if business were allowed full swing in this present crisis the income of the worker would be so small that he could barely exist. Capital will do anything rather than cut a dividend, and labor is always the goat when business economizes.

I quote from the fifth paragraph:

"Whenever you find an organization in which employer and employees work together in harmony, where there is a mutual understanding of business problems they have to encounter, the workers in every such instance secure a fair share of the profits of the business."

Where, pray tell me, is to be found an organization in big business that will take the employees into its confidence, even discussing the problems with them? No! Business will never allow labor to find out how much profit is made. The cry is always, reduce expenses, and they seem to think that expense and labor are one and the same thing. And Mr. MacFadden seems to think that labor in general and workers in particular are a lot of nit-wits.

**PAUL R. LEAKE.**

#### L. U. NO. 1037, WINNIPEG, MAN.

Editor:

We had a good meeting again on January 28, but the attendance might have been better. Brother Irvine gave us a very good talk on noises on telephone circuits, which was very interesting and was very much appreciated.

Well, it has been damn cold up here during this past month, and a lineman's life has not been a happy one when it is 40 below zero.



and you can lay to that. However, the temperature has risen considerably since Premier Bennett's speech on the radio, whereby he promised the Canadian workers a complete new deal. Premier Bennett said the old capitalistic order has gone and will not return; that he would institute government control and regulation of all business; establish throughout Canada a uniform wage and maximum workweek; abolish child labor, and sweat-shop conditions. He would place on the statutes unemployment insurance; real old-age pensions; health, accident and sickness insurance; tax non-producers whose incomes are derived from securities, mortgages and other wages of money.

This sounds fine, but don't forget, Brothers, you will need your organization 100 per cent more than ever to make sure that the minimum wage does not become the maximum. Some of us are a little skeptical. We have been fooled so often by the politicians of the old parties that we hardly dare hope that legislation would be enacted that will be of real benefit to the working class.

However, time will tell! In the meantime, we must build up our organization and instill into our fellow workers the necessity for their co-operation to help maintain conditions of life and labor that will be worth while passing on to those who follow us in the future.

Yours for a square deal for all.

A. A. MILES.

L. U. NO. 1141, OKLAHOMA CITY,  
OKLA.

Editor:

We all have one thing on our minds here and, although it may be premature to report here, we feel compelled to say something about it. In conjunction with the good

Brothers from Tulsa we have written up a statute for submission to the legislature now in session providing for state supervision and regulation of all electrical work in the state. We all feel very hopeful for the chances of this draft becoming a law. We feel certain that if it does it will be possible to restrict, if not eliminate, the shoe string wireman from making substandard installation outside the limits of the larger towns, as he is now doing. Further, it will give the inspectors in the towns which are at present regulated an opportunity to back up their opinions without the interference of purely local political chiselers. The contractors' associations of the state deserve full credit for co-operating with us in both the compiling and in backing of this proposed law.

We in Oklahoma City received quite a shock a few days ago when that staunch supporter of the right of every man to do his own bargaining, the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, not only invited the Central Trades Council to subscribe to a membership in their organization, but invited them as well to appoint a committee to meet with their own representatives to discuss labor problems and future policies in Oklahoma City. We are still looking for the worm in the apple, but our committee will meet with them anyway.

The boys here are all keeping a stiff upper lip and are making enough to keep going on, which is still some consolation. We have not yet obtained approval on our code under the NRA upon which we had a hearing here last month, but we should be hearing from that most any day and we expect to have better conditions if we ever get any work anyway. (No, our name is not Pollyanna.)

FRED B. COUNTS.

## DO BUILDING MEN RECEIVE HIGH PAY?

By HENRY HALPERT, L. U. No. 3

In practically every newspaper correspondence section throughout the United States, one can find letters from wage earners in the low income brackets with outcries pertaining to high wages received by building trades mechanics. They write that they would alter, repair, renovate and modernize their homes. The reason they give for refraining from doing so is invariably high wages of building trades mechanics. This state of mind is also reflected in newspaper editorials and magazine articles. Here then, we find a fundamental lack of understanding of the entire problem of wages in general and wages in the building trades in particular.

The problem of wages dates back to the time when serfs became free to sell their labor. Omitting a review of the continuous struggles for higher wages through the years, we will take the problem as it confronts us today. Let us see how wages are determined and established.

Up to the present, the employer determined what wages he wanted to pay for certain types of work in all industry. Economists will tell you that the weekly wages depended on the "standard of living." I tell you this is merely a fantasy. If you have observed amongst your friends and relatives, you will find that John Jones, with a wife and six

children, receives the munificent sum of \$18 for a six-day week, eight hours per day. For the same time, James Doe, working for the same employer and doing the same work, with a wife and one child, receives the same money. I ask you to judge for yourselves whether it is possible for John Jones to maintain the same "standard of living" as his co-worker, James Doe, also whether their employer is interested in the "standard of living" that he forces his employees to adopt. Do they care anything about the "standards of living" of their employees?

Let us suppose that the cost of everything that the worker consumes has risen. Do we find that employers generally hasten to raise wages so that workers will not be forced to forego the real necessities of life? The statistical history of such situations shows definitely that wages always lag behind a rising cost of living; that, after all, it is not how much a worker gets in wages that counts, but what he can buy with it.

Here it is advisable to make brief mention of the two wage systems in vogue in the United States.

### Two Types of Wage Plans

The time wage system is the simplest. A worker gets paid for whatever time he

works, by the hour or day. Enemies of this system claim that the time wage system does not differentiate between the good and the bad worker. It does not call forth any extra effort from the less efficient worker.

The other system is called the "Incentive" wage system. In this system, the worker gets paid by the job or piece. Under the piece system, if the worker's output is large, his income is large, and if the output is small, the reward is small. But this system is not universally adaptable. There are many situations that it does not provide for, as: 1, lack of orders; 2, machine breakdowns; 3, defective materials; 4, loyalty to company; 5, care of equipment; 6, requirement of special skill.

While those in control of the building industry undoubtedly would love to adopt the incentive system of production, yet, the time wage system is generally in vogue and the reasons for the prevalence of this system are:

1. The requirement of special skill of the workers.
2. The unionization of the building trades.

Were it not for the necessity of skill, I do not believe that unions would be able to exist and fight for their members' right to a decent livelihood.

Even as this is being written, there are large building financial combines scheming and planning. And what do you think they are racking their brains about? You might be led to believe that their conscience has been shocked by the suffering, humiliation and degradation that has been heaped upon four million building trades mechanics in the past five years. They might be arranging for improvements in the blighted lives of four million men. But, oh no! They are devising ways and means whereby the skilled building trades mechanic will disappear from the scene, so that, what they consider high wages will vanish with the disappearance of the necessary skill.

And now let us make a summary of actual conditions. James Bay is a very skilled mechanic, well known in his trade. He manages to be employed about six months out of the year. Let us assume that he works 26 weeks a year. He works three days a week, at \$11.20 per day. He earns \$873.60 for the year, or an average of \$16.80 per week. This is what clerks, financiers (including Mr. Moffett) and laymen call high wages. They forget that one must live 52 weeks a year in order to be able to work any time of the year. Also that it costs as much and even more to live when you are idle as when you are employed.

Careful analysis brings to the surface the fact that union labor has a problem in educating the low wage income earners of the United States. Their worry should not be what the building trades mechanic receives for his day's pay. They should concern themselves with the proposition of increasing their income, so that the seeming discrepancy in pay will disappear. In reality, high wages for building trades mechanics are only a myth.



# IN MEMORIAM



## Wilfred LaLonde, L. U. No. 492

*Initiated May, 1919*

Whereas it has been the will of Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, to remove from our midst our Brother, Wilfred LaLonde, and through his passing our organization has lost a true and loyal member; therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the members of Local Union No. 492, I. B. E. W., extend to those who remain to mourn his loss our deepest sympathy; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the bereaved family, a copy be spread upon the minutes, and a copy published in our official Journal.

THOMAS GANNON,  
T. J. STOKER,  
F. S. WORRALL,  
Committee.

## Jess S. Shafer, L. U. No. 276

*Initiated October 18, 1907*

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, to call from our midst our esteemed Brother, Jess S. Shafer; and

Whereas we, the members of Local Union No. 276, deeply mourn the loss of a true and faithful Brother and in his passing suffer the loss of one whose place in our hearts will remain forever unfilled; therefore be it

Resolved, That we, as a union in brotherly love, extend our deepest sympathy to those who remain to mourn his passing; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the bereaved family, a copy sent to the Electrical Workers' Journal for publication, a copy be spread upon our minutes, and our charter be draped for a period of 30 days in his memory.

C. O. ROSWELL,  
O. E. EBY,  
E. BERGMAN,  
A. ROSENBERG,  
Committee.

## G. T. Lamb, L. U. No. 613

*Initiated February 19, 1925*

Whereas we must abide by the will of God in the sudden removal of our faithful Brother, G. T. Lamb, Local Union No. 613 wishes to offer our sincere sympathy to his family and relatives; therefore be it

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to his family, a copy to the Worker for publication, and a copy spread upon our minutes; and be it further

Resolved, That our charter be draped for a period of 30 days.

DAN W. BOONE,  
P. M. CHRISTIAN,  
C. B. KEY,  
Committee.

## Alfred T. Lee, L. U. No. 213

*Initiated January 12, 1920*

Whereas after a long illness, borne with the greatest courage and cheerfulness, our Brother, Alfred T. Lee, has passed to his rest; and

Whereas he served his country in the Canadian naval trawler patrol during the war, and has now laid down his life as a direct result of illness incurred in that service; and

Whereas he was possessed of an unflinching enthusiasm and buoyancy of spirit, and the personal magnetism of his character drew towards him many friends who feel his passing with great sorrow; therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the members of Local Union 213, extend to the family and relatives of our late Brother Lee our deepest sympathy in their bereavement; and be it further

Resolved, That our charter be draped for a period of 30 days in memory of our Brother; that a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the family; that a copy be spread on our minutes, and also that a copy be sent to the official Journal for publication.

E. R. NEWMAN,  
FRANK PLANTEC,  
Committee.

## John A. Huf, L. U. No. 28

*Initiated February 28, 1911*

It is with deepest sorrow and regret that Local Union No. 28, I. B. E. W., records the death of our esteemed and worthy Brother, John A. Huf, to whose bereaved wife and family we extend our sincere and heartfelt sympathy; therefore be it

Resolved, That we, as a body, stand in silence for one minute, as a tribute to his memory, and that our charter be draped for a period of 30 days; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of our meeting, a copy be sent to his family, and a copy be sent to our official Journal for publication.

CAMPBELL CARTER,  
EDWARD DOUGHERTY,  
Committee.

## Frank E. Moore, L. U. No. 585

*Initiated May 4, 1928*

It is with great sorrow and regret that Local Union No. 585, must record the passing to the Great Beyond of a true and loyal member, Brother Frank E. Moore; therefore be it

Resolved, That Local Union No. 585, I. B. E. W., extends to the bereaved family of Brother Moore our sincere sympathy; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to his family, a copy be sent to the official Journal for publication, and a copy be spread on our minutes, and that the charter of the local union be draped for a period of 30 days in memory of our departed Brother.

C. H. HUTTANUS,  
BOB ULLMAN,  
Committee.

## Frank C. Weaver, L. U. No. 108

*Initiated September 30, 1923*

Whereas Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, has seen fit to call from our midst our esteemed and worthy Brother, Frank C. Weaver, who has passed on to his greater reward; and

Whereas Local Union No. 108, I. B. E. W., has suffered the loss of a true and worthy Brother; therefore be it

Resolved, That we, in a spirit of brotherly love, pay tribute to his memory by expressing to his family our sincere sympathy; and be it further

Resolved, That our charter be draped for a period of 30 days in his memory; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to his family, a copy to be spread on our minutes, and a copy to the Electrical Workers' Journal for publication.

JOE DEMPSEY,  
L. L. LOVELESS,  
J. R. GUNN,  
Committee.

## John D. Barrett, L. U. No. 9

*Initiated April 12, 1926*

Whereas Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, has removed from our midst our esteemed and worthy Brother, John D. Barrett; and

Whereas in the death of Brother Barrett Local Union No. 9, I. B. E. W., has lost one of its true and devoted members; be it therefore

Resolved, That Local Union No. 9 recognizes its great loss in the passing of Brother Barrett and hereby expresses its appreciation of the services he rendered to the cause of our Brotherhood; and be it further

Resolved, That Local Union No. 9 tenders its sympathy to the family of our good Brother in their time of great bereavement; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of our late Brother, a copy be spread on the minutes of our Local Union No. 9, and a copy be sent to the official Journal of our Brotherhood for publication.

WILLIAM PARKER,  
DAN MANNING,  
HARRY SLATER,  
Committee.

## Earl Calonder, L. U. No. 134

*Initiated February 22, 1914*

Dear friends and Brothers in the holy cause of union labor, just a few memorial lines fervently dedicated to our late distinguished Brother, Earl Calonder, who departed this life on December 18, 1934. He was a very active member of the Electrical Workers Union No. 134, I. B. E. W., and deeply mourned by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. He sleeps in St. James Cemetery, Lock Port, Ill.

(May he rest in peace.)

Adieu! Dear Earl Calonder, your heart was ever true  
To the cause of union labor and the good that you could do.  
To your mourning wife and family fond sympathies we pour.  
In unison with the gallant men of Local 134.

'Round your grave the song birds nestle, sweet  
and wild the tunes they sing.  
Their enchanting hymns of glory rising to our Heavenly King;  
Mid the whispering trees and roses there celestially they chime  
'Round the tomb where you are sleeping until the end of time.

The floral wreaths laid on your grave will silently decay,  
But your love for union labor shall never pass away.  
Like the brilliant sun the work you've done for poor humanity  
Will guide you to a higher zone for all eternity.

P. KANE,  
Local No. 9, I. B. E. W.

## Daniel M. Letts, L. U. No. 465

*Initiated October 20, 1926*

It is with deep sorrow and regret that we, the members of Local 465, record the passing of our Brother, Daniel M. Letts; therefore be it

Resolved, That we, in spirit of brotherly love, pay tribute to his memory by expressing to his family, our sincere sympathy; and be it further

Resolved, That our charter be draped for a period of 30 days; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to his family, a copy be spread upon our minutes, and a copy be sent to our official Journal for publication.

ASA McGOVENY,  
FRANK M. SULLIVAN,  
R. D. ALEXANDER,  
Committee.

## Fred Miller, L. U. No. 292

*Initiated November 10, 1925*

Whereas it is with sincere sorrow and regret that we, the members of Local Union No. 292, I. B. E. W., note the passing of our dear Brother, Fred Miller, and wish to fittingly express our deep sympathy and to honor his memory; therefore be it

Resolved, That the condolence of this organization be extended to his family and friends; and be it further

Resolved, That our charter be draped in mourning for a period of 30 days, and that a copy of these resolutions be spread on the minutes of this local union, a copy sent to the family of our departed Brother, and a copy sent to the Journal for official publication.

W. WAPLES,  
Press Secretary, L. U. No. 292.

## Thomas E. Scanlan, L. U. No. 104

*Initiated April 7, 1927*

It is with deepest sorrow and regret that Local Union No. 104, I. B. E. W., records the passing into the Great Beyond of our worthy Brother, Thomas E. Scanlan; therefore be it

Resolved, That we, as a union, pay tribute to his memory by expressing our deepest sympathy to the family and relatives of our deceased Brother; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of our late Brother, a copy sent to the International Office for publication in our official Journal, and a copy be spread upon the minutes of this local union; and be it further

Resolved, That the charter of Local No. 104 be draped for a period of 30 days as a token of respect to his memory.

A. J. HOPKINS,  
Recording Secretary.

**Earle Gray Long, L. U. No. 1***Initiated March 31, 1911*

Whereas Local Union No. 1, I. B. E. W., records the passing of our worthy Brother, Earle Gray Long, on February 12, 1935; therefore be it

Resolved, That this local union pay tribute to his memory by expressing our deepest sympathy to his family in their bereavement; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to his family, a copy be spread upon our minutes, and a copy be sent to the Electrical Workers' Journal for publication; and be it further

Resolved, That our charter be draped for a period of 30 days in honor of the memory of our departed Brother.

A. L. BOEMER,  
J. HERMAN FINKE,  
M. A. NEWMAN,  
Committee.

**W. L. Quinn, L. U. No. 26***Reinitiated March 8, 1928*

It is with deep sorrow that we, the members of Local Union No. 26, government employees branch, Washington, D. C., mourn the passing of our Brother, W. L. Quinn; therefore be it

Resolved, That we pay tribute to his memory by expressing to his family our sincere sympathy; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to his family, and a copy spread upon our minutes, and a copy be sent to the Electrical Workers Journal for publication; and be it further

Resolved, That we drape our charter for a period of 30 days.

W. B. ROBERTS,  
T. D. STUART,  
J. B. FLOYD,  
Committee.

**Max Lindeman, L. U. No. 9***Initiated April 11, 1899*

Whereas Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, has removed from our midst our worthy Brother, Max Lindeman; and

Whereas in the death of Brother Lindeman, Local Union No. 9, I. B. E. W., has lost one of its true and devoted members; therefore be it

Resolved, That Local Union No. 9 recognizes its great loss in the passing of Brother Lindeman and hereby expresses its appreciation of his services to the cause of our Brotherhood; and be it further

Resolved, That Local Union No. 9 tenders its sympathy to the family of our good Brother in their time of great bereavement; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of our late Brother, a copy be spread on the minutes of our Local Union No. 9, and a copy be sent to the official Journal of our Brotherhood for publication.

RALPH BREHMAN,  
DAN. MANNING,  
HARRY SLATER,  
Committee.

**Ralph Earl Miller, L. U. No. 928***Initiated January 1, 1935*

Whereas Local Union No. 928 has suffered the loss of one of its charter members, Ralph Earl Miller; and

Whereas it is our desire to express to the bereaved family of our deceased Brother Miller our sincere sympathy; therefore be it

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the family of our deceased Brother, a copy be forwarded to the official Journal for publication, and a copy be spread upon the minutes of Local Union No. 928; be it further

Resolved, That the charter of this local be draped for 30 days in his memory.

B. E. SCHILLING,  
VERNON A. ERICKSON,  
Committee.

**J. J. Malloy, L. U. No. 9***Initiated June 15, 1917*

Whereas Almighty God has been pleased, in His infinite wisdom, to take from among us our esteemed and worthy Brother, J. J. Malloy; and

Whereas Local Union No. 9, I. B. E. W., has lost in the passing of Brother Malloy one of its true and earnest members; therefore be it

Resolved, That Local Union No. 9 hereby expresses its keen appreciation of the services

to our cause of our devoted Brother and our sorrow in the knowledge of his death; and be it further

Resolved, That Local Union No. 9 tenders its sincere sympathy to the family of our late Brother in their time of great sorrow; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of our deceased Brother, a copy be spread on the minutes of our Local Union No. 9, and a copy be sent to the official Journal of our Brotherhood for publication.

RALPH BREHMAN,  
DAN. MANNING,  
HARRY SLATER,  
Committee.

**C. J. Alston, L. U. No. 666***Initiated November 9, 1911*

It is with the deepest sorrow and regret that we, the members of Local No. 666, record the death of our Brother, C. J. Alston; therefore be it

Resolved, That we, in a spirit of brotherly love, pay tribute to his memory by expressing to his family our sincere sympathy; and be it further

Resolved, That our charter be draped for a period of 30 days; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to his family, a copy to be spread upon our minutes, and a copy be sent to our official Journal for publication.

THOS. J. GRIFFIN, Pres.,  
R. C. MILLER,  
H. M. MONAHAN,  
Committee.

**J. F. Maher, L. U. No. 666***Initiated September 24, 1923*

Whereas Local No. 666 has suffered the loss of one of its members, Brother J. F. Maher; and

Whereas it is our desire to express to the bereaved family of our deceased Brother our sincere sympathy; therefore be it

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the family of our deceased Brother, a copy shall be spread upon our minutes of this local union, and a copy sent to our official Journal for publication; be it further

Resolved, That the charter of our local union be draped for a period of 30 days in his memory.

THOS. J. GRIFFIN, Pres.,  
R. C. MILLER,  
H. M. MONAHAN,  
Committee.

**Andrew Martin, L. U. No. 680***Initiated February 13, 1919*

Whereas it is with deepest sorrow and regret that we, the members of Local No. 680, I. B. E. W., record the passing of our Brother, Andrew Martin, a true Brother and a loyal union man; therefore be it

Resolved, That we pay tribute to his memory by expressing to his family our most heartfelt sympathy and regrets; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to his family, a copy be spread on the minutes of this local, and a copy be sent to our official publication, the Electrical Workers Journal, for publication; and be it further

Resolved, That the charter of this local be draped for 30 days in his memory.

WM. LIEFLANDER,  
A. D. OSTERGAARD,  
TONY PHILLIPS,  
Committee.

**WOMAN'S AUXILIARY***(Continued from page 115)*

Englett, who have a little baby girl in their home.

Deepest sympathy is extended to Mrs. Ralph Henderson in the loss of her father, recently.

MRS. C. N. BOONE.

584 Culberson Street, S. W.

**WOMEN'S AUXILIARY, L. U. NO. 444, PONCA CITY, OKLA.**

Editor:

Our auxiliary to L. U. No. 444, of Ponca City, was organized on January 9, and we now have a membership of 12. Brother W. H.

Arnold, president of L. U. No. 444, took charge of our first meeting and assisted us in electing officers. Mrs. Isobel Overman was elected president and we feel very fortunate in having her as our leader, as she inspires enthusiasm.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. L. H. Reed, of Topeka, Kans., auxiliary, and Mae E. Nessler, of Minneapolis, Minn., auxiliary, for their helpful letters, which were of much assistance to us in getting our organization started.

We hold two meetings each month, one business and one social, and all of our members are taking an active interest. The entertainment committee is planning a covered dish dinner to entertain the members of L. U. No. 444 early in March. We have been getting one or two new members at nearly every meeting and hope to have everyone eligible a member.

724 N. Pine St.

ELLA BINGHAM.

**VETERAN GIVES TARDY PRAISE TO I. O.***(Continued from page 103)*

upon the heads of those who put their muscle on the job in this vicinity.

As a parting bit of advice—whether you want or need it or not—until and unless some unforeseen turn in the world gives you some form of a "humanitarian league" which we all can follow to greater success, it behooves you to retain your membership with us if you have it, and join us if you have not, if not for the principle of the movement forward, then at least for the good of those you leave behind, when you make your final dead-end; for an absolute certainty there is not a labor organization in America or elsewhere that I know of that shunts more good to you for your union dollar than does the I. B. E. W. Ad interim—watch the box cars glide by this summer carrying millions of humans, representing billions of dollars in wasted energy. The voice of labor will some day be heard.

**DEATH CLAIMS PAID FEBRUARY 1-28, 1935**

| L. U.       | Name                 | Amount      |
|-------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 245         | M. J. Stapleton..... | \$1,000.00  |
| 9           | J. D. Barrett.....   | 1,000.00    |
| 371         | L. Zucconi.....      | 1,000.00    |
| 465         | D. M. Letts.....     | 1,000.00    |
| 585         | F. E. Moore.....     | 1,000.00    |
| 276         | J. S. Shaffer.....   | 1,000.00    |
| 52          | A. H. Hunsher.....   | 1,000.00    |
| 9           | I. V. Knott.....     | 1,000.00    |
| 28          | J. L. Rolle.....     | 1,000.00    |
| 1036        | E. Wideman.....      | 1,000.00    |
| I. O.       | Emil Rehn.....       | 1,000.00    |
| 104         | P. J. Dempsey.....   | 1,000.00    |
| 65          | Jerry Elledge.....   | 1,000.00    |
| 40          | O. J. Sniff.....     | 300.00      |
| 28          | H. O. Mackinson..... | 1,000.00    |
| 306         | H. H. Desantel.....  | 1,000.00    |
| 98          | M. F. Fite.....      | 825.00      |
| 73          | W. F. Bard.....      | 1,000.00    |
| 66          | E. Kelly.....        | 1,000.00    |
| 134         | J. Annweiler.....    | 1,000.00    |
| 1           | E. G. Long.....      | 1,000.00    |
| I. O.       | Thos. O'Neill.....   | 1,000.00    |
| 233         | E. J. Melin.....     | 825.00      |
| 79          | V. Kotchkiss.....    | 1,000.00    |
| I. O.       | Wm. Leithead.....    | 1,000.00    |
| 213         | Alfred T. Lee.....   | 1,000.00    |
| 492         | Wilfred Lalonde..... | 1,000.00    |
| Total ..... |                      | \$25,950.00 |



## BIG BUSINESS WORKS OUT PROGRAM

(Continued from page 97)

Big business through its control of the press has succeeded in suppressing any agitation for increased income taxes. It constantly feeds to both the government and the readers of these propagandistic newspapers the idea that the sales tax is the great panacea of the present situation. This then represents the program of big business in this year of grace, 1935, and the year of the depression, six. A stupid program based upon greed and indifference to the welfare of the nation as a whole.

Every one of the measures of big business is bad in itself and pernicious collectively. The restriction of production, the dole, the increased profits, subsidization of sick industries and the sales tax represent a process that is going to continue to shock recovery and destroy reconstruction. Every measure is aimed at the underlying population. Every measure is aimed at labor. This program means that a country technically capable of ushering in an era of plenty is committing itself to the economy of scarcity.

## PANAMA CANAL VS. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

(Continued from page 110)

the amount of tolls collected. The largest business for any one month in the history of the Canal was for the month of July, 1923, when the tolls collected aggregated \$2,124,410.32. During this month 474 vessels passed through the Canal. At this rate the receipts from tolls would aggregate approximately \$25,500,000 per year, or a return of nearly 10 per cent on the invested commercial capital of \$275,000,000.

—FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

## COSTLY DIALS MAKE SUBSCRIBERS WORK

(Continued from page 99)

ered. Its function is in the long run to discover that a receiver has been accidentally left off, thus putting the line out of service for inward calls. It cannot, and does not, pretend to function in an emergency. Assuming, however, that an operator did in due time answer this signal on the sender monitor board, if the subscriber were unable to talk or give her the location of the telephone she would have absolutely no means of knowing the location of the individual in distress. It is true that by a complicated method, requiring a great deal of time, the wire chief could ascertain the location of the station from which the call came, but only if the operator held her plug in the line until the wire-chief had completed his investigation. If, for example, a subscriber screeched "fire" and the operator excitedly pulled out her plug on a dial telephone, the possibility of giving immediate help would be completely lost. On a manual telephone this would make no difference because the line would be clearly identified still by the lamp burning on the switchboard.

## Let Subscriber Make Experiment

I have tested this out on my own telephone repeatedly, and you can do it yourself. Take the receiver off the dial telephone and hold it without dialing. After about one and one-half minutes, more or less, you will get a peculiar tone test on the line. That indicates that you have reached the sender monitor board, but, this board being unmanned by an operator, and attracting only casual attention in the central office, it is apt to be four or five minutes before you actually get the intercepting operator. Thus in innumerable cases of emergency, in which an accident victim has neither the faculty nor presence of mind to dial, a mechanical telephone is useless to him for the purpose of summoning aid.

The instances in which operators answering a manual telephone, where the conditions were similar, and saving lives and property thereby, are too numerous to mention. Two recent cases, which I have read in the newspapers illustrate my point. In one case—a night watchman was beaten, bound hand and foot, gagged, and left in a chair. He threw the receiver off the telephone with his shoulder. The operator sent the police to his rescue. In another case a four year old boy was alone in the house with a baby sister when a fire broke out. He went to the telephone, crying for his mother and talking about a fire. The operator notified the fire department and both children were rescued. In neither case would a dial telephone have been of any service.

## Inefficiency of Dials

Certain little-known mechanical factors operate against the efficiency of the dial. When you put the receiver to your ear on the dial telephone you are supposed to wait for the dial tone before you begin to dial. This dial tone indicates that the mechanical sender has picked up, and is ready to complete the mechanical process of putting through your call as soon as you dial. Now, these senders are subject in their time response to the load in the central office, just as the operator is. If the load is extremely heavy, the operator answers your call in five, six, or seven seconds, instead of two seconds. The same is true of the sender; if the load is unusually heavy the senders are too occupied to immediately respond to your removal of the receiver. If you begin to dial before the tone test comes on the line, indicating that the sender is ready, you will not reach your called party. This accounts for the frequent occasions when you are certain you dialed correctly, but nevertheless you reach an intercepting operator telling you to dial again.

Then there is the type of dialing, which the telephone company calls "flat-fingered dialing." Try dialing with the flat of your finger rather than the tip. You will find that you fail to carry the dial completely around to the finger stop—this results in your reaching a wrong number, usually a digit ahead of the number you dialed.

The difficulties encountered in the ac-

cidental slipping or pushing of the dial are, of course, familiar.

The return of the dial to its base, after one digit has been dialed, and preparatory to dialing the next digit is timed on certain impulses. If the return of the dial is retarded or accelerated in the slightest degree a wrong number may result. This is particularly true of a dial instrument which has been in use for a long time, and on which the interlocking equipment is somewhat worn.

## Consumer Rejection of Dial

It is a fact well known in telephone circles that following the conversion of an exchange from manual to dial there is a substantial falling off in the calling rate, also a large increase in the ration of abandoned calls. This graphically indicates consumer rejection of the dial. For persons whose eyesight is affected or who have language or literacy handicaps it constitutes practically a denial of telephone service. Even persons of normal or near normal eyesight must light a light in a darkened room, and in some cases put on glasses before they can use a dial telephone. The amount of faulty usage is very great. Every dial office has several boards for the handling of calls which have been mis-dialed. Compared to simply passing an oral order for a number to the operator dialing a call requires a sustained degree of concentration; one must remember three code symbols, sometimes three letters, sometimes two letters and a number, and must then remember the four digits of the dial number. If the number has two or three digits one must remember to dial one or two naughts as a prefix in order to make the mechanism work. In dialing a call a subscriber makes about an equal number of motions as the operator in a manual office would make in completing the call manually, so that there is no saving of human labor—merely a transfer of this labor from the wage-receiving operator to the rate-paying subscriber. This faulty usage by dial subscribers arises from a variety of causes; failing to dial the correct exchange code; failing to dial enough letters; failing to dial an "O" prefix on two and three digit numbers; dialing the "O" numeral for the letter "O"; foreigners dialing "J" for "G", "V" for "W" and so on through an endless mixup of letters. Then, there are the errors due to minor mental abstractions to which we are all subject. We are just about twice as apt to transpose numbers on the dial than we are when giving an order orally to the operator. In other words, under the manual system we have the occasional inevitable human mistakes made by the operator, but these are the rare mistakes of the expert, whose attention is wholly concentrated on a specialized job. But dial errors at the hands of non-experts, giving only occasional and semi-detached attention to the job, are naturally much more numerous. Aged people to whom a telephone is very important, not only for social contacts, but actually for the protection of life itself, frequently find it impossible to get used

to a dial telephone, and therefore refuse to use the service at all.

#### Factual Indication of Dial Errors

We have recently noted very eloquent evidence of the increased incidence of error on the dial telephone. When using a pay station, if you lose your nickel you can report the matter to the chief operator and a refund of your lost nickel will be sent you in the mailing card. Recently the clerk in one of our dial offices was short of these mailing cards, and she telephoned a nearby manual office, saying she was sending a messenger boy for some. Incidentally she asked the clerk in the manual office how many of these nickel refunds she mailed out in the course of a month. The manual office clerk gave her the number, and the clerk in the dial office noticed it to be only about one-third the number which it was necessary to send out in the course of a month from the dial office. Both offices have approximately the same number of pay stations. This would seem to indicate that on pay stations at least there are three times more errors on a dial telephone than on a manual. Of course, it may be that the subscriber, because of the general irritation at the burdens which are put upon him in the use of a dial telephone pay station is more apt to demand the refund of his lost nickel than is the manual telephone user.

When you call a P. B. X. (private branch exchange) on a dial telephone you are charged for the call as soon as you reach the operator on the P. B. X. If you do not reach your inside station, or you reached the wrong inside station you have absolutely no means of recalling the P. B. X. operator without hanging up and dialing over again, or at the pay station of putting in another nickel.

On a manual telephone you can recall your central office operator by moving your switch hook and she will give you another line to the P. B. X. all for the same charge.

On the older type of dial exchanges overtime is not registered, hence a subscriber in such an exchange can talk for an hour on a call and not be charged except for the initial five minutes. This is an unequal distribution of the cost of telephone service, because in a manual exchange, or in the newer type of dial exchange, another subscriber would be charged 12 times for such a call. The new dial exchanges are equipped with overtime checks.

A fact of very important interest to telephone consumers is that a toll operator on a station to station toll call cannot verify the number given by a subscriber, thus any subscriber who is in the "know" on this, and who wishes to give any other number in his exchange could do so without detection. On a person to person call this would not be possible as the toll operator calls back for completion. If you are calling from New York to a specified telephone in Boston and you are in say—Algonquin exchange—you can dial the

toll operator, pass your Boston call, giving any Algonquin number other than your own, and thus shift the cost of the call to some other telephone. On a call from a manual telephone the toll operator can verify. She can instruct the local operator to put her in on the line and find out whether or not the toll call is actually originating from the station number being given to her. The opportunity for wrong charging of toll calls on dial telephone is thus limited only by the honesty of the subscriber.

#### L. E. MAYER HONORED FOR INDUSTRY SERVICE

(Continued from page 109)

ment that promises enduring benefits for the economic security and well being of his industry. This program is now administering as chairman of both the national code authority and the regional committee for the several states of his area.

In recognition of this constructive contribution to the advancement of the contractor-dealer branch of the electrical industry, the judges have awarded to Mr. Mayer the contractor-dealers medal and purse for 1934 given under the James H. McGraw Award.

#### COLUMBIA GORGE HAS OVER-TONES BEYOND POWER

(Continued from page 102)

during a terrific battle between Mount Hood and Mount Adams, before his father's father's time. Today the ruin of that "Bridge of the Gods" forms the Cascades of the Columbia. A man made bridge spans the river just below. In 20 moons or so, the ruins of the old, the Cascades and even the present Bridge of the Gods, will rest beneath the placid surface of a broad lake, which will extend a hundred miles inland. For, a few miles below, a gigantic pile of artificial stone is beginning to rise between the natural abutments, as Bonneville Dam grows into being. With its completion, men will again walk from cliff to cliff above the river.

"What hath God wrought?" Soon "the trackless woods where rolls the Oregon, and hears no sound save his own dashings" will be found only in "Thanatopsis." His own mighty dashings stilled, the "Oregon" will hear instead the manifold sounds of modern industry. Aye, what changes man has wrought!

One may picture the river as a gentle old man. Gone the tumultuous days of youth, the wild wasting of strength and energy in abandoned coursing towards the sunset. Instead, the calm serenity of a life still (and forever) abundant in potential power but devoted to a beneficent service to mankind. Tamed, as Paul Bunyan would have tamed him, had he stayed.

"The old order changeth." We would not have it otherwise. The lake in its majestic setting will be as beautiful as the river is today. But would you mark the march of time? Then come and see—now, before the new has dispossessed the old.

#### SELLERS THRIVE ON IGNORANCE OF CONSUMERS

(Continued from page 106)

of information and misinformation; the press, movies, radio, and even institutions and leaders of education, science, the church and politics.

But marketing methods are more than merely a complex of means to inform and misinform consumers about the spending of their money. Big business marketing is an attempt to mould consumers' valuations, to influence the importance which they attach to things. "By their influence upon the valuations of millions of men, marketing experts help mould the very philosophy of the age. Well may we ask whether it is wise to permit our valuations, our philosophy, our very desires to be moulded by men who are guided by no higher aim than to make a profit for themselves or for their employers."†

All this means that consumers, as buyers in the market, are of little or no weight today in the determination of industrial policy. The concentration of business control, of course, reduces to insignificance the individual consumer as a bargainer. Nor is there any mass consumer organization capable of bargaining on approximately even terms with the organization of big business.

Consumers, then, cannot count on the processes of the market place for their protection. The burden of consumer protection ought by all rights to be thrown on a government controlling the economy in the social interest.

#### Government Should Protect Consumer

If such a governmental responsibility were sincerely accepted, it would at once become clear that government must not only itself make available the information of basic importance which consumers now do not get, but that also it must undertake to regulate the production and market policies of industry. Admittedly, this would be a heavy responsibility. But inasmuch as private industry does not, indeed cannot, provide consumers with the safeguards fundamental to decent living, it is plain that socially controlled agencies must provide them.

For one thing, such a government would be obliged to see that consumers get only goods that are fit for consumption. The markets would have to be rid of the fake medicines, the poisonous cosmetics, the arsenic-sprayed fruits and vegetables, the lead-weighted silks, and all the other commodities that are patently a menace to health.

But any adequate protection of consumers must go far beyond what is required for the immediate safeguarding of their health. Consumers also need a defense for their pocketbooks against goods that do not give them all that they should get for their money. And, of course, any defense of consumers' purchasing power must also be a protection of their physical welfare. Thus with respect to the great variety of goods that are not necessarily poisonous, consumers should know which goods are best suited for particular purposes. A socially

† Slichter, S. H. *Modern Economic Society*. New York, 1931. P. 564.

responsible government would make such knowledge available. It would develop and impose consumer-oriented standards of quality, nomenclature, packaging and labeling. It would publicize information on the relative merits of consumer goods. It would direct the teaching of the technical information necessary for adequate understanding of products and their use-value for various consumer needs. It would suppress the false claims and insinuations of private-brand labeling and advertising. A genuinely social control of consumer information would require not only the outlawing of downright falsity in advertising, but also the elimination of the subtle misstatements, innuendoes, and exaggeration (termed "harmless trade puffing" by apologists) so dear to advertisers today. And if all this were done, consumers would merely be in the same position now enjoyed by big business enterprise and well-managed governments when they buy on the basis of standards and specifications.

Of course, the purchase and sale of goods on the basis of clear and honest information available to buyer as well as to seller would be disastrous to business that now thrives on the consumer's ignorance. It would mean the sweeping away of a great deal of monopolistic and quasi-monopolistic enterprise that now manages to survive by persuading consumers that its brand of products has unique qualities. It would mean the end of most of the advertising that we know today; the elimination of anti-social subsidies to the press and radio.

Such governmental activity would be an approach to adequate protection of the public health and purchasing power. It would immensely decrease wastes in production, distribution and consumption. It would go far toward destroying the sources of private monopoly profit.

Now, these are functions that our machinery of government has never performed, nor been considered obligated to perform, in any really important sense. We may well ask whether in the present situation government can even attempt to do these things.

To be sure, there are government agencies which some have thought might be influential in shaping consumer directed governmental policies. But in terms of what so desperately needs to be done, the concrete achievements of these agencies have been pitifully slight. When consumer interests run counter—as they almost always do—to the interests of those who hold the dominant position in our political and economic system, the consumer interests must be ignored. Thus, despite the sincerity and intelligence manifest in the work of these agencies, they have for the most part been necessarily impotent. Organizations of this sort can be made really to work only when behind them is a group pressure expressing itself politically.

Government generally does no more than is wanted by the politically powerful. The profit-seeking interests are always alert to bring effective pressure on the government to protect their own position. Consumer interests on the other hand do not find politically significant expression. Therefore, efforts to assist the politically vocal producers have formed the usual basis of our public policies. The government has held to a policy of preserving maximum freedom for the activities of private, profit-motivated enterprise and of maintaining services useful to business. In carrying out this policy, the government has been bound to administer public affairs in a very unpublic manner, to ignore, soft-pedal, and sometimes

suppress activities helpful to consumers but harmful to business interests.

It must be said, then, that government can undertake the job of protecting consumers—and practically speaking the term "consumers" must mean the great mass of industrial and agricultural workers getting small incomes—only when these people become urgently conscious of their needs and are so organized as to make government do that job. Such organization of consumers must challenge all the rich resources of private business. Indeed, it cannot be successful until it has swept aside the dominant business controls of production, price and marketing policies, and has established a policy of controlling the major functions of our economy faithfully in the interests of the worker-consumers.

The realization that this is a work of herculean proportions, one that can be completed only after a long and hard struggle, need not dismay those striving for the development of adequate consumer protection. Rather, it should save them from bitter disillusionment when they find that their efforts to establish consumer standards, to enact adequate food and drug legislation, to regulate fraudulent advertising, to publicize information of importance to consumers, are frustrated or emasculated. Realistically, they could expect little else. Such setbacks should teach them that much remains to be done in informing and organizing the masses of worker consumers, and in making plain the notion that the purpose of all economic activity is to provide a plenty for everyone, and not profits for a few. They must learn that this is no mere task of bringing about surface reforms, but rather a labor whose goal is a thorough reconstruction of our entire social system.

#### FACTORY MADE HOUSES STILL BEING PUSHED

(Continued from page 108)

builders that though a buyer may select a stock plan for reasons of economy, he always insists on some changes in it to adapt it to his individual needs and tastes. One large national building concern which had more than 100 stock plans of houses of various sizes and types found that never was a house built exactly according to the original plan and that two houses built from the same plan for two individual customers would show a great variation both in exterior appearance and individual arrangement. This variation, which gives so much interest and life to residential streets, and so much pleasure to home owners, is not possible with mass-production units.

Building restrictions in many communities are a barrier against the erection of pre-fabricated dwellings. While a drive undoubtedly will be made to eradicate these restrictions they can be maintained if public consciousness is aroused to the need for them.

Oh, yes, houses will be built in the regular way for many years to come.



#### VEST CHAIN SLIDE CHARM

A watch charm so fine looking you'll enjoy wearing it. Of 10-karat gold trimmed with a circle of tiny imitation pearls, and clearly displaying the I. B. E. W. insignia. Priced only \$5

But the trend of machine production, destruction of skill, corporate profits, unemployment, relief rolls, that is destroying the economic structure rolls on.

#### WHO ARE THE BIG FOUR IN MILK?

(Continued from page 107)

Chevy Chase Dairy, Washington, D. C.  
Chestnut Farms Dairy, Inc., Washington, D. C.

Milk distributing subsidiaries of the Borden Company include:

Borden's Dairy Delivery Co., Inc., San Francisco, Calif.

Maricopa Creamery Co., Inc., Phoenix, Ariz.

Rettig's, Houston, Texas.

Home Dairy Company, Inc., Kansas City, Mo.

Gridley Dairy Company, Inc., Milwaukee, Wis.

Kennedy-Mansfield Dairy Company, Madison, Wis.

Plainfield Milk and Cream Co., Inc., Plainfield, N. J.

Castanea Dairy Co., Inc., Trenton, N. J.

M. Augdenblich and Bro., Inc., Newark, N. J.

Mitchell Dairy Co., Inc., Bridgeport, Conn.

#### LABOR-FIGHTING SHIP FIRMS ON GRILL

(Continued from page 111)

which Mr. Wilder replied: 'I never knew before that the Navy Department was crooked.'

"Mr. Gravem answered: 'This is purely a practical matter.'

"Those present at the time Mr. Gravem made these statements were L. R. Wilder, of Gulf Industries; a Mr. Hyde, assistant counsel for the Gulf Industries and former treasurer of the city of New York; Miss Judy Kitchen, secretary to Mr. Wilder, and myself."

#### Collusion Charged

More serious charges that have been brought to the committee involved Mr. Bardo, labor hater and lobbyist for manufacturing interests particularly. The charges had to do with purported collusion between the New York Shipbuilding Corporation of Camden, N. J., the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, of Newport News, and the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation, of Quincy, involving contracts totalling \$238,000,000. This collusion is said to be revealed by a letter Mr. Bardo wrote to W. M. Flook. The letter follows:

"Mr. W. M. Flook,

"Dear Mr. Flook:

"I spent the last two days in Washington in connection with the shipbuilders' and ship repairers' code required by the Industrial Recovery Act. We finally worked out a code which was reasonably satisfactory to the ship repairers, although there are some questions of a more or less controversial nature which we will have to iron out between now and the time the code is made effective.



"Three or four of these smaller yards, including the Todd and United Dry Docks in New York who have never been engaged in navy work, have had their eyes set right along upon having allocated to them some of the destroyers.

"It was necessary for me to be here today and it was also necessary for Ferguson to be in Newport News, so that the shipbuilders' code could not be completed. In order, however, to set the ship repairers aright I sent the attached telegram to Mr. Smith, who was presiding at the meeting. I outlined our company's position on this matter of allocation to yards not heretofore engaged in shipbuilding activities. I talked to Ferguson on the phone this afternoon and he fully approved of this position.

"I know from my talks with some of the representatives of the navy, who are keenly interested in this work, that they are desirous of finding some substantial reasons for awarding this work to the largest possible extent to private yards upon whom they must rely for the necessary engineering to complete the ships.

"There was also expressed to us the desire that the builders themselves should get together and agree as far as we could upon what each would bid and then bid on nothing else. The situation as it stands now is substantially as follows:

"Newport News—The two airplane carriers, which while not duplicates to the Ranger, are of similar type.

"Bethlehem—The 10,000-ton, eight-inch cruiser, a duplicate of the ship which they are now building.

"New York Ship—A new ten-thousand-ton, six-inch cruiser and a distribution of the eight destroyer leaders.

"This new work would amount approximately to the following values:

"Newport News—\$30,000,000.

"Bethlehem and New York Ship—\$28,000,000 each, although the final estimates may slightly change these figures.

"I have a suspicion that the department has clearly in mind ordering some additional cruisers once this first lot is out of the way, and I am also clearly of the view that they regard our cruiser output as being superior to that of the other yards.

"I am now of the opinion that we will probably submit a bid for six of the eight destroyer leaders although it may be necessary to reduce this slightly in the final set up.

"We are preparing a clause to be inserted in the contract, which we think will be acceptable to the Navy, to the effect that in the event labor and material charges under these contracts should exceed the labor and material estimates of the yard to a point where losses would accrue, that the contractor will be authorized to apply to the President, who in his discretion can cancel the contract and order the work completed on the basis of a cost plus a fixed fee.

"Very truly yours,  
"C. L. BARDO."

"P. S.—As near as we can figure out, the distribution of the new navy program will run about 60 per cent to private yards and 40 per cent to navy yards, although this may later be changed without further notice.

"C. L. B."

## NEUTRALITY OF UNDERWRITERS QUESTIONED

(Continued from page 101)

bare neutral is to be used. No such recommendation appears. Perhaps the engineers of Underwriters' Laboratories do not appreciate any benefits in keeping the return currents in known paths, and in juxtaposition to the outgoing currents. Perhaps they are not familiar with the reasons why rules 503-o, 504-g, 505-l, 506-q, 508-o and 511-i are in the code. Perhaps they are not aware of such rules in the code. There are recognized exceptions to the above rules, but not where currents as large as 10 amperes are contemplated.

Does this lack of familiarity with principles underlying the code justify the conclusion that "the existence of by-path currents as noted in this report was not found to have any effect respecting service, corrosion, arcing, or heating, or to have any effect respecting the fire and accident hazards of the wiring installations"? The investigation of effects upon service and heating are not mentioned in the report.

With nothing in the body of the report to substantiate it, another astounding conclusion is that "a substantial percentage of existing wiring in service in buildings has numerous grounds on the grounded conductor, thus presenting conditions inherently the same as with bare-neutral wiring." This does not exactly harmonize with the statement that probably 25 per cent of ordinary installations are "reported" (by whom?) as having had polarity reversed following a breakdown of the hot wire. However, the reader is left to make his own guess as to whether "substantial" means 50 per cent or only 5 per cent.

The only corrosion found in the installations inspected was in damp locations, and was not attributed to the use of a bare neutral.

The danger of running a bare neutral through switch boxes is brought out in the report, as it may contact live parts, producing a short-circuit.

Two other statements in the summary challenge attention. One states that the inspection representatives interviewed expressed a willingness to permit bare-neutral wiring when established as a standard, probably meaning when recognized in the code. "Their attitude and interest is academic." The other states that "no complaint or criticism of bare-neutral wiring as a method has been presented by

those most familiar or experienced with its application and use."

These statements overlook interviews quoted earlier in the report, which state that an insurance inspector and also a municipal inspector expressed emphatic opposition. It is significant, too, that interviews were only obtained with inspectors "experienced in its use," and that experience (trial installations) has been had mainly where the inspection departments were sympathetic to its use. This represents a very tiny fraction of the total area of the United States. We could refer the writer of this report to any inspectors who have more than an "academic" interest in the subject and who are ready to present criticism of the bare neutral.

## WOMAN'S WORK

(Continued from page 114)

This is a strict reducing diet. As the patient began to show the desired loss of weight the diet was modified to include a wider variety of food, such as vegetables and fruit which were considered to contain too much starch or sugar to be included on the first list.

When particular parts of the body are too fat, such as hips, abdomen, neck, legs, where the fat seems to settle in ugly wads, a system of exercises which will strengthen the muscles of these parts is advisable. The improvement in circulation in these areas helps to break down the fatty tissues. Cultivating correct posture also helps to do away with lumpishness and will improve the appearance, which, of course, is what we really are after.

## Free-Wheeling Habits

Always keep in mind that you are trying to form habits. You know, once a habit is firmly formed you do not have to think about it any more, you automatically do what you have habituated yourself to do. It is like riding in a car with free wheeling, part of the time you are coasting along on your own momentum. Funny how it is so much easier to form bad habits than good ones! The perversity of human nature! It takes patience and persistence in large quantities to overcome it. But if you will stick with it long enough you actually will get over your craving for rich foods; you will know just what you may eat to keep your weight at its ideal level and in time you will adjust yourself to eating just the right quantity. Eventually you will cease to think about your weight at all except to check up on it at intervals, unless ill health or some other drastic change should make necessary another adjustment in your eating habits.

## NOTICE

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of John E. Cook, card No. 233020, a member of Local Union No. 309, kindly notify A. L. Wegener, business manager of L. U. No. 309, 207 Coloma Bldg., East St. Louis, Ill. This member was last heard of in Elk City, Kans.

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## PRODIGIOUS POWERS IN MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

(Continued from page 105)

sell the power which their installed capacity enables them to generate; of other areas, especially rural regions, which enjoy no electrical service at all; of general domestic and municipal under consumption; and of a large number of municipal plants generating their own current which could be more economically served from the common pool.

To provide in considerable measure the leadership for the accomplishment of these momentous economic and cultural gains in the year just ahead is a task of government. But any such planning must provide for an orderly and gradual development in which both public and private interests are fully considered. In the new order here suggested, which can necessarily achieve its purpose only through the progressive building of group and regional and interregional transmission networks, all interconnected, existing generating and transmission systems, public and private, will not only be needed but will find their advantage in co-operating in the larger unified scheme.

The private companies would gain through increased use of their present facilities; through not having to finance, in part at least, new generating and transmission equipment; through lower investment costs; and through the advantages of improved stability of service and added sources of energy.

### Interconnecting Companies Now

Already there is in practice some degree of interconnection between companies and systems not under the same ownership. These are operated over limited areas in New England, in the east central states, in the south and on the Pacific coast. To illustrate, the Pennsylvania-Ohio-West Virginia interconnection in 1931 had an estimated peak of 1,750,000 kilowatts and served a population of 9,000,000 in 300 cities and towns.

But the present rate of effecting such interconnection is too slow to meet the public need, because it is retarded by intercompany rivalries and other conditions not grounded on social interest and yet readily removable. Therefore, just as the original impetus to interconnection was given by the government during the World War in requiring any company having excess capacity to transmit its surplus current to nearby territory in need of it, now the government must take the lead if we are to achieve the unification desired in the new war upon economic waste and instability, unemployment, and the progressive destruction of basic natural resources.

The accomplishment of the necessary large-scale interconnection can probably be had through progressive application of what is essential in the common carrier principle.

It should be remembered at this point that the plan here projected does not involve the question of public or private ownership of either generation or distribution. Government control of transmission, however, is fundamental. This goal does not involve necessarily any great increase in the number of publicly owned lines, especially if the private companies co-operate in effecting unification.

Doubtless the government will have to build some connecting lines to bring its

own hydrocurrent to market in cases where companies have no need to build for their own purposes, or where the government enters new areas in its promotion work for the common welfare, for example in the field of farm electrification.

Because the government must have outlets for the power developed as an integral part of its conservation program, if the present system operates to block these outlets the national interest must obviously lead to a change in the system. The character and extent of the change will depend on conditions as they develop.

Public control sufficient to effect unification of transmission to compass the desired end is important—not the percentage of publicly owned plants. To insure a balanced judgment on the whole problem it is well to remember that the item of transmission represents only about 20 per cent of the total investment in the electrical industry, as indicated on the graph herewith.

The limited use of the common carrier principle, already made in various parts of the United States by private companies, has yielded satisfactory results. It is the central factor in the Ontario Hydro-Electric System where a virtual government monopoly exists. But the best illustration of the complete utilization of the common carrier principle where public and private agencies co-operate under the direction of the State is found in Great Britain.

[There follows a discussion of the British grid system.]

## SEEK WIDE SCOPE OF PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

(Continued from page 100)

nication system is a basis of commerce to the extent that it may be called the very structure of business and commerce subject to immediate paralysis in time of war; and

Whereas to seek to operate a national communication system through 48 separate states, we believe to be insufficient, wasteful and impractical; and therefore be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the ninth annual conference of the Public Ownership League of America in session at Washington, D. C.; that

First, this system of communication which is of vital importance in times of peace and paramount importance in time of war be taken over and operated by the government for the benefit of the people.

Second, that a permanent committee be appointed by the League to present this resolution to the Interstate Commerce Committees of both branches of Congress and that copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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| 39    | 402882 403180     | 105   | 488101 488101 | 194   | 562907 562999 |       |               | 426   | 951370 951378 |
| 40    | 158751 158772     | 10    |               |       |               |       |               |       |               |



| L. U. | NUMBERS | L. U.  | NUMBERS | L. U.  | NUMBERS | L. U. | NUMBERS | L. U.  | NUMBERS |        |        |
|-------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|-------|---------|--------|---------|--------|--------|
| 430   | 499538  | 499539 | 568     | 54160  | 54166   | 697   | 524489  | 524583 | 903     | 490201 | 490205 |
| 431   | 193392  | 193404 | 568     | 370641 | 370680  | 697   | 604537  | 604614 | 908     | 162912 | 162920 |
| 434   | 945421  | 945433 | 569     | 23455  | 23457   | 698   | 233187  | 233192 | 908     | 500406 | 500416 |
| 435   | 403546  | 403570 | 569     | 317939 | 318000  | 701   | 159511  | 159539 | 912     | 398804 | 398915 |
| 437   | 222167  | 222204 | 569     | 606751 | 606823  | 702   | 600984  | 601283 | 912     | 6193   | 6196   |
| 440   | 914007  | 914016 | 570     | 496509 | 496516  | 704   | 160005  | 160015 | 914     | 378823 | 378838 |
| 441   | 47108   | 47109  | 571     | 950438 | 950441  | 707   | 970570  | 970610 | 918     | 221569 | 221599 |
| 441   | 939511  | 939521 | 573     | 903740 | 903764  | 709   | 89276   | 89283  | 918     | 230251 | 230263 |
| 443   | 893237  | 893245 | 574     | 24063  | 24063   | 711   | 5241    | 5243   | 919     | 923146 | 923150 |
| 444   | 340599  | 340615 | 574     | 598562 | 598744  | 711   | 343272  | 343341 | 922     | 374303 | 374314 |
| 445   | 270485  | 270488 | 575     | 887887 | 887907  | 713   | 181383  | 181442 | 928     | 163801 | 163819 |
| 445   | 240965  | 240974 | 577     | 484230 | 484244  | 713   | 573911  | 574215 | 928     | 518701 | 518731 |
| 452   | 906700  | 906704 | 580     | 271082 | 271082  | 713   | 515071  | 515199 | 937     | 672447 | 672463 |
| 453   | 251849  | 251872 | 580     | 961895 | 961915  | 716   | 113881  | 114000 | 940     | 225808 | 225835 |
| 457   | 759853  | 759858 | 582     | 254736 | 254744  | 716   | 289835  | 289842 | 940     | 217992 | 217992 |
| 458   | 481884  | 481910 | 583     | 468022 | 468031  | 716   | 601501  | 601550 | 948     | 31663  | 31673  |
| 460   | 616013  | 616025 | 583     | 499201 | 499206  | 717   | 9862    | 9865   | 948     | 182914 | 183000 |
| 461   | 864585  | 864607 | 583     | 948582 | 948600  | 717   | 223103  | 223165 | 948     | 519990 | 520077 |
| 465   | 466171  | 466241 | 584     | 323902 | 323975  | 718   | 161443  | 161446 | 948     | 561751 | 561762 |
| 467   | 159033  | 159033 | 584     | 433928 | 433990  | 718   | 497702  | 497702 | 949     | 941353 | 941378 |
| 467   | 480346  | 480367 | 585     | 246549 | 246576  | 719   | 533541  | 533583 | 953     | 912811 | 912820 |
| 468   | 666440  | 666441 | 585     | 618241 | 618285  | 722   | 530032  | 530036 | 956     | 83899  | 83904  |
| 470   | 250203  | 250208 | 586     | 228433 | 228447  | 723   | 636001  | 636006 | 958     | 242712 | 242715 |
| 471   | 250518  | 250547 | 588     | 384246 | 384283  | 723   | 469300  | 469500 | 963     | 162602 | 162602 |
| 474   | 5760    | 5760   | 589     | 369516 | 369590  | 724   | 212958  | 212987 | 963     | 313608 | 313618 |
| 474   | 247579  | 247651 | 590     | 185281 | 185330  | 724   | 972480  | 972534 | 972     | 665296 | 665298 |
| 475   | 941531  | 941550 | 590     | 950878 | 950896  | 727   | 657800  | 657805 | 978     | 74664  | 74667  |
| 477   | 946978  | 946987 | 591     | 953601 | 953620  | 728   | 901073  | 901087 | 991     | 186605 | 186605 |
| 479   | 225172  | 225175 | 593     | 624796 | 624799  | 729   | 622664  | 622676 | 991     | 914599 | 914607 |
| 479   | 495618  | 495654 | 594     | 942203 | 942245  | 731   | 483983  | 484010 | 995     | 200916 | 200930 |
| 480   | 8100    | 8100   | 595     | 45977  | 45981   | 734   | 420412  | 420546 | 995     | 483671 | 483760 |
| 480   | 248701  | 248713 | 595     | 158621 | 158636  | 735   | 663452  | 663454 | 996     | 87338  | 87338  |
| 481   | 34337   | 34367  | 595     | 598071 | 598225  | 736   | 967270  | 967295 | 1002    | 528902 | 528936 |
| 481   | 575418  | 575540 | 596     | 440791 | 440796  | 743   | 690731  | 690750 | 1021    | 79939  | 79943  |
| 482   | 498901  | 498910 | 597     | 895959 | 895972  | 743   | 691001  | 691032 | 1024    | 548279 | 548383 |
| 482   | 615700  | 615700 | 599     | 498020 | 498037  | 748   | 227257  | 227266 | 1025    | 649632 | 649643 |
| 483   | 207688  | 207750 | 600     | 930651 | 930655  | 751   | 162301  | 162359 | 1032    | 932837 | 932854 |
| 483   | 609751  | 609763 | 601     | 546629 | 546668  | 751   | 499801  | 499819 | 1036    | 236802 | 236817 |
| 488   | 31345   | 31360  | 604     | 260944 | 260960  | 757   | 946114  | 946132 | 1037    | 404421 | 404490 |
| 488   | 95242   | 95250  | 604     | 971171 | 971200  | 758   | 240869  | 240900 | 1047    | 698172 | 698197 |
| 488   | 549001  | 549040 | 611     | 27368  | 27394   | 760   | 258491  | 258492 | 1054    | 234663 | 234670 |
| 492   | 76520   | 76520  | 613     | 44021  | 44040   | 760   | 542411  | 542518 | 1057    | 482722 | 482736 |
| 492   | 543087  | 543181 | 613     | 237261 | 237290  | 762   | 968211  | 968227 | 1072    | 858997 | 859007 |
| 493   | 896499  | 896513 | 614     | 732176 | 732181  | 763   | 250073  | 250079 | 1086    | 21513  | 21581  |
| 497   | 51005   | 51009  | 615     | 239764 | 239788  | 763   | 959305  | 959329 | 1091    | 941962 | 941977 |
| 497   | 204543  | 204556 | 616     | 242855 | 242856  | 764   | 227869  | 227888 | 1095    | 532297 | 532322 |
| 499   | 176712  | 176722 | 617     | 795516 | 795540  | 770   | 379845  | 379895 | 1099    | 645457 | 645466 |
| 499   | 255284  | 255291 | 618     | 480065 | 480097  | 772   | 702481  | 702482 | 1101    | 940671 | 940681 |
| 499   | 489601  | 489602 | 619     | 482141 | 482149  | 773   | 901742  | 901760 | 1105    | 902219 | 902264 |
| 499   | 960838  | 960900 | 621     | 921399 | 921407  | 774   | 242208  | 242258 | 1108    | 81866  | 81872  |
| 500   | 21436   | 21440  | 622     | 584746 | 584751  | 777   | 215255  | 215266 | 1118    | 965156 | 965171 |
| 500   | 563421  | 563505 | 623     | 809128 | 809154  | 777   | 242426  | 242449 | 1131    | 949899 | 949906 |
| 501   | 94651   | 94668  | 625     | 259687 | 259732  | 779   | 249313  | 249323 | 1135    | 973870 | 973886 |
| 501   | 377871  | 378000 | 629     | 256656 | 256726  | 782   | 930097  | 930106 | 1141    | 22164  | 22178  |
| 501   | 430500  | 430650 | 630     | 948159 | 948174  | 784   | 223674  | 223674 | 1141    | 340116 | 340224 |
| 501   | 440401  | 440421 | 631     | 245186 | 245221  | 784   | 468151  | 468177 | 1141    | 434892 | 435005 |
| 501   | 540751  | 540827 | 632     | 925398 | 925440  | 787   | 964257  | 964280 | 1144    | 81568  | 81574  |
| 502   | 53463   | 53464  | 634     | 254276 | 254279  | 788   | 263851  | 263860 | 1147    | 252811 | 252880 |
| 502   | 885456  | 885469 | 634     | 958588 | 958592  | 792   | 919448  | 919454 | 1151    | 657984 | 657987 |
| 504   | 813973  | 813981 | 637     | 243959 | 243992  | 794   | 39744   | 39748  | 1154    | 4675   | 4679   |
| 506   | 902753  | 902759 | 640     | 621015 | 621063  | 794   | 175633  | 175642 | 1154    | 963748 | 963764 |
| 507   | 668274  | 668274 | 642     | 13821  | 13822   | 794   | 434947  | 435000 | 1156    | 167103 | 167103 |
| 508   | 421537  | 421536 | 642     | 922633 | 922670  | 794   | 632251  | 632308 | 1156    | 416441 | 416498 |
| 509   | 669332  | 669341 | 643     | 961653 | 961667  | 798   | 595531  | 595546 |         |        |        |
| 510   | 35286   | 35293  | 644     | 482458 | 482475  | 802   | 237062  | 237066 |         |        |        |
| 514   | 762371  | 762390 | 646     | 47651  | 47657   | 807   | 236324  | 236324 |         |        |        |
| 515   | 631849  | 631853 | 648     | 14433  | 14434   | 809   | 485419  | 485430 |         |        |        |
| 517   | 519001  | 519010 | 648     | 268648 | 268706  | 811   | 464738  | 464742 |         |        |        |
| 517   | 642291  | 642300 | 648     | 420403 | 420440  | 813   | 930428  | 930443 |         |        |        |
| 520   | 959833  | 959862 | 649     | 226087 | 226087  | 817   | 423534  | 423750 |         |        |        |
| 521   | 245774  | 245835 | 649     | 328921 | 328975  | 817   | 582751  | 582782 |         |        |        |
| 522   | 966496  | 966531 | 653     | 253587 | 253623  | 819   | 892433  | 892444 |         |        |        |
| 525   | 9614    | 9621   | 656     | 964936 | 964965  | 820   | 144804  | 144807 |         |        |        |
| 525   | 972675  | 972710 | 657     | 962184 | 962187  | 824   | 237673  | 237680 |         |        |        |
| 526   | 945740  | 945748 | 658     | 39555  | 39571   | 835   | 225972  | 225978 |         |        |        |
| 527   | 46513   | 46521  | 660     | 924777 | 924796  | 836   | 229535  | 229539 |         |        |        |
| 527   | 955001  | 955071 | 661     | 240395 | 240407  | 838   | 894077  | 894098 |         |        |        |
| 528   | 574686  | 574740 | 663     | 159308 | 159368  | 840   | 971439  | 971449 |         |        |        |
| 529   | 47928   | 47939  | 663     | 466285 | 466325  | 844   | 234082  | 234096 |         |        |        |
| 530   | 485710  | 485718 | 663     | 481285 | 481313  | 848   | 228839  | 228864 |         |        |        |
| 532   | 316262  | 316316 | 664     | 970054 | 970060  | 850   | 746405  | 746409 |         |        |        |
| 533   | 963499  | 963501 | 665     | 144295 | 144300  | 854   | 722089  | 722116 |         |        |        |
| 536   | 905497  | 905503 | 665     | 282289 | 282310  | 855   | 236635  | 236654 |         |        |        |
| 537   | 251435  | 251445 | 665     | 470101 | 470127  | 856   | 468926  | 468928 |         |        |        |
| 538   | 19064   | 19091  | 668     | 481551 | 481560  | 856   | 498328  | 498353 |         |        |        |
| 539   | 497409  | 497417 | 669     | 241948 | 241961  | 857   | 620635  | 620651 |         |        |        |
| 540   | 900524  | 900544 | 670     | 176177 | 176185  | 858   | 487801  | 487840 |         |        |        |
| 545   | 952729  | 952750 | 671     | 923652 | 923673  | 858   | 923083  | 923100 |         |        |        |
| 548   | 621201  | 621206 | 673     | 663433 | 663450  | 862   | 246934  | 246963 |         |        |        |
| 549   | 11833   | 11833  | 674     | 243020 | 243026  | 862   | 262953  | 262953 |         |        |        |
| 549   | 131990  | 132000 | 676     | 83313  | 83318   | 863   | 480632  | 480643 |         |        |        |
| 549   | 550501  | 550548 | 677     | 20151  | 20156   | 864   | 549758  | 549777 |         |        |        |
| 551   | 66523   | 66529  | 677     | 874996 | 875027  | 865   | 402146  | 402229 |         |        |        |
| 552   | 95816   | 95822  | 678     | 227514 | 227531  | 869   | 441492  | 441511 |         |        |        |
| 553   | 226869  | 226884 | 678     | 241965 | 241970  | 870   | 422315  | 422344 |         |        |        |
| 554   | 598341  | 598347 | 680     | 957067 | 957077  | 873   | 909524  | 909534 |         |        |        |
| 555   | 561038  | 561049 | 681     | 641967 | 641976  | 881   | 249915  | 249939 |         |        |        |
| 556   | 480944  | 480956 | 683     | 16682  | 16683   | 883   | 259682  | 259693 |         |        |        |
| 557   | 942770  | 942778 | 683     | 243702 | 243752  | 883   | 909041  | 909062 |         |        |        |
| 558   | 246079  | 246154 | 684     | 500101 | 500108  | 885   | 245547  | 245576 |         |        |        |
| 558   | 258321  | 258341 | 684     | 934490 | 934500  | 886   | 442682  | 442734 |         |        |        |
| 559   | 86039   | 86049  | 685     | 604496 | 604500  | 889   | 496226  | 496253 |         |        |        |
| 561   | 199429  | 199500 | 685     | 633751 | 633768  | 890   | 239217  | 239243 |         |        |        |

# ON EVERY JOB *There's a Laugh & Two*

*We are getting swamped with contributions again, and it really is a problem to choose among so many poems and stories. If you are hurt because your gem fails to appear, remember that there are many others with it in the folder in the editor's desk, which we can't use all at once on one page.*

\* \* \*

## Wind from the Windy City

An unemployed Chicagoan of the I. B. E. W. has been using castile (cast steel) soap to retain his strength and suppleness. He is glad to pass this electrical suggestion along to others in need. This should prevent Charley Boys in future.

The regular depression grace for the dinner table is this:

Father, Son and Holy Ghost, the one who eats the fastest gets the most.

JOHN MORRALL,  
L. U. No. 134

\* \* \*

## Market Quotations

Bid/ ?      Asked/ ?

An elderly Quaker on Long Island has a little property which a wealthy neighbor has long wanted to buy, but the old man is deaf to the most tempting offers. Prices mean nothing to him. Figures seem to convey no message to his brain. A bright young agent once had the happy thought to offer to cover the floor of the house with \$5 gold pieces as the price of the property, and for the first time the old man's eyes showed a gleam of interest. After a moment's consideration he said, "Wilt thou set them on edge?"

ARNOLD FOX,  
Local Union No. 3.

\* \* \*

## Warm Verse

*My tribute to Brother William F. Warm*

No longer do I ponder,  
Hesitate and wonder  
How to pronounce your name the proper way.  
Spellbound by your charming lines,  
Within this column's confines,  
I deem it fit to pronounce it with an "A"!

ABE GLICK,  
L. U. No. 3.

\* \* \*

*Gosh, this is just too bad—we hope he won't see this one!*

Editor:  
Sir:

I wrote in haste and now repent, about that little verse I sent. My boss got wise, as you'd surmise, if you could see my swollen eyes. All I called him was soldier, sailor and pug, but I guess I went wrong adding "crazy old bug," for that made him sore. And into me he tore, making me promise that poem to deplore.

Very truly yours,

HELPER A. W. B.,  
L. U. No. 9.

*Another of these here now true stories, and we kin hardly believe it.*

Said my old friend, Ichabod, "By cracky, when I was living down near Henryville, pap and I cut down a bee tree which had growed up out of an old swamp. We got about a tub full of honey out of a hole in one of the limbs, and then I heard a sort of flopping inside of the body of the tree, which looked solid to me, and I said, 'Pap, there's something in that there tree.'

"Pap he said, 'Son, you're foolish, that tree is solid.' And I said, 'Pap, help me saw into her and we will see.' So we sawed that there tree in two, and by cracky, there was a 40-pound catfish in that tree. He had growed up with the tree out of that old swamp."

GREENE, L. U. No. 481.

\* \* \*

*No matter how crowded we are, we gotta find room for Sleepy Steve!*

## Ballade of Sports

At Churchill Downs, in Louisville,  
It's post time, this is Derby Day.  
The vast concourse is all a-thrill;  
The barrier lifts and they're away.  
Cavalcade wins! His owners, they  
On him the victor's wreath bestow.  
This "sport o' kings" it gets one, eh?  
I take in every big sport show.

'Member when Maxie tried to kill  
Carnera? 'Til I'm old and grey  
That fight I will remember still.  
Believe me, it was some affray.  
No words of mine can e'er convey  
The mob's excitement. And although  
At fights I seldom get that way,  
I take in every big sport show.

Now Yale and Princeton match their skill,  
On gridiron with Yale at bay.  
The moment's tense, the stands are still,  
There's just one minute left to play:  
Fourth down, one yard to touchdown. Say!  
No greater kick in life I know  
Than this. And so when e'er I may  
I take in every big sport show.

## Envoy

"Through courtesy of Shredded Hay,"  
They're brought to me by radio.  
At home, in slippered ease I stay,  
And take in every big sport show.

SLEEPY STEVE,  
L. U. No. 9.

\* \* \*

## Southern Humor

I am sending a couple of humorous but true stories that I have heard while foreman of a bunch of negroes while working on this fruit farm in the past three years:

No. 1, Shorty; No. 2, Hayward; No. 3, Albert.

Shorty to Hayward (who is very religious): "Brother Hayward, would you fight if a nigger slapped your face?"

Hayward: "No, I wouldn't fight."

Shorty: "I should think you would be good in a fight, because the Lord would be on your side."

Albert speaks up and says: "Well, the Lord is all right in His place, but He ain't worth a darn in a fight."

Pete, another negro, some years ago worked for a man named Braddock. He used to drive him to church every Sunday, and Pete would sit in the back of the church, so he would be ready to drive his boss home again.

Pete said one Sunday the preacher was praying and at the end of the prayer he asked God to bless various members of the congregation. Looking up he happened to see Pete in the back of the church, and ended his prayer with "And bless the nigger as much as a nigger needs blessing."

C. S. MICHAEL,  
Box 89, Wabasso, Fla.      I. O.

\* \* \*

## The Meter Squeaks

We've read reams of praise for the linemen;  
Wiremen come in for their share—  
But you seldom hear of the metermen;  
After all, it isn't quite fair.

They are the men who test and read meters,  
So correct light bills we pay.  
They each check their company's "cash registers";  
They work and earn what they may.

Odd things often happen; for instance,  
A lady may speak with disdain.  
Then, with infinite tact and patience  
They answer and start over again.

"Why my bill so big, electric man?  
Steve, he got keeds, ten or 'leven.  
I no burn light, I no understan'.  
Keeds? Me? I no got but seven."

They carry on and count revolutions;  
They hang on somehow by their nerve.  
They may lack a swell education,  
But remember, they also serve.

HAROLD E. GUNTER,  
Local No. 309.

\* \* \*

*Hendrick pops up again. He is certainly seeing the country.*

## Hot Stuff

My helper had a great desire,  
To earn an honest pay;  
He picked up a red hot wire—  
And dropped it right away!

ELECTRIC HENDRICK,  
Somewhere in the West.

\* \* \*

Danny O'Brien, the best all 'round lineman in these parts, sailed for New York to visit his mother. He writes that his trip would have been a huge success, if someone hadn't stolen his traveling bag while aboard the boat. He says he placed the bag in the closet with the round glass door.

G. L. MONSIVE,  
L. U. No. 595.



WE are at last learning that the business of government is to take counsel for the average man. We are at last learning that the whole matter of the prosperity of peoples runs down into the great body of the men and women who do the work of the world and that the process of guidance is not completed by the mere success of great enterprises; it is completed only by the standard of benefits that it confers upon those in the obscure ranks of life who contribute to the success of those enterprises.

—WOODROW WILSON.

